



CHRISTIANITY TODAY

PUBLISHED FORTNIGHTLY

Why Our Preaching Fails

F. R. WEBBER

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RALPH A. CANNON and GLENN D. EVERETT

Survey of Old Testament Books

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MERRILL C. TENNEY

Significant Theological Works

WARREN C. YOUNG

EDITORIAL:

Upturn in Evangelical Publishing

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Why Our Preaching Fails

F. R. WEBBER

In the days of our grandfathers it was believed that the great truths of redemption should be preached every Sunday from every pulpit. There were doctrinal differences, of course. The Baptist believed in immersion, the Congregationalist defended the sovereign rights of the local congregation, the Episcopalian kept in mind his apostolic succession, and the Presbyterian insisted upon the Kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ. In one important respect, however, they all agreed: the great message of the pulpit must be sin and salvation. Man is a lost sinner by nature, and he can be saved only by the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ. That was the central truth kept before the people by C. H. Spurgeon the Baptist, G. Campbell Morgan the Congregationalist, Charles R. McIlvaine the Episcopalian, B. B. Warfield the Presbyterian, C. F. W. Walther the Lutheran, and scores of others. Young men in seminary were told emphatically that preaching must be Christ-centered and redemption-centered.

LOSS OF ANCHOR

All that was years ago. Then came a period when the pulpit lost its evangelical anchorage. After a few years of sensationalism, smart-aleck sermon titles and catchy rhetoric, many clerical faddists cast away the evangelical preaching of their forefathers and substituted life-centered sermons for Christ-centered ones. It was not a proclamation of the life to come. It was an analysis of the life that we are living today. A popular Scottish preacher, whose books of sermons were known to many in America, was one of the leaders of the new homiletical fashion.

The Saturday church page of almost any newspaper contained such sermon titles as: "On Facing Life in an Atomic Age," "What to Do When Life Lets You Down," "The Poignant Call of Life's Yesterdays," "On Standing up to Life Unafraid." Such sermons were often devoid of any evangelical content. A sailor lad was not far wrong when he said of a sermon that he had just heard: "He used the word 'life' thirty-seven

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times and the name of Jesus Christ but once, and that was in his last sentence."

The formula of life-preaching was simple. It consisted in selecting any trite saying, adding all manner of rhetorical embroidery, then ending with an admonition of the self-improvement variety. A popular preacher, for example, was quite likely to take a current cliché, such as "take it easy now," and out of this vapid expression produce the following:

"Life surrounds us with all manner of temptations, and one of these is the bad habit of trying to do too much. The business man rushes for his 7:15 commuter train, the children scamper off to school, and the housewife hurries to the shopping center. We are all in too much of a hurry. We have never learned the art of sitting down for a quiet hour and getting acquainted with ourselves. Life surrounds us with too many distractions, and life puts many an obstacle in our way; but on the other hand, life will speak to us with a still, small voice if only we might learn to sit down and listen to the things that life is trying to say to us."

Having taken his original theme of four words, our preacher has said the same thing in a paragraph of 124 words. Then he restates the idea once more in different form, and continues so to do until 15 minutes are consumed. Then he says, "Let us pray."

NEITHER LAW NOR GOSPEL

There is nothing difficult about such preaching, for it demands no study of the Greek text, no effort at exposition, not even a knowledge of theology. Is such preaching a faithful fulfilment of one's duty? It cannot be, for it contains neither the Law which leads sinners to repentance, nor the Gospel which declares the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. When such men as Spurgeon, Herber Evans and Moody preached, men and women were brought to a knowledge of sin by the Law, and led to Calvary by the Gospel; but if ever a sermon on "Life's Message to an Age of Stress" caused one reprobate to live an upright life, or directed one alarmed sinner to the Cross, neither you nor I have heard of the incident.

A variation of the life-centered sermon is the more

recent discourse that is loaded with terms borrowed from the prep school's course in psychology and psychiatry. Such sermons are man-centered and sprinkled with pronouns in their plural form. There is never a mention of *sola gratia* and *sola Scriptura* in these we-us-our-ourselves essays. No person with wavering faith has ever been strengthened by a tepid little lecture on procrastination, nor has ever a family, stunned by a sudden bereavement, received comfort on Sunday by listening to their pastor say: "We are all inclined to side-step life's more basic commitments. There is a tendency in all of us to shirk the duty of evaluating the problems presently before us. Our reluctance to integrate our own potential with life's more attractive possibilities results in a positive loss to ourselves." Such words as "commitments," "evaluate," "presently" (which means *soon*, and not *now*), "integrate" and "co-ordinate" are shop-soiled expressions of the news secretaries of the New Deal period, and to link them together with plural pronouns can bring comfort and strengthening of faith to no one.

SECULARIZED PREACHING

John Kennedy of Dingwall, that magnificent evangelical pulpit orator of the Scottish Highlands, realized the danger of secularized preaching more than 70 years ago. In his *The Days of the Fathers in Ross-shire* (Edinburgh, 1861), in his *The Apostle to the North* (London, 1867), and in the posthumous *Sermons by the Rev. John Kennedy* (Inverness, 1883), this great Gaelic-speaking preacher pleads in the English language for better preaching, declaring that the work of the pulpit is "worthless because it is Christless." Dr. Kennedy declares:

Pauline preaching is becoming, in the estimation of many, an antiquated kind of thing, which, in an age such as ours, should be quite laid as a fossil on the shelf. And what is this new thing which they have introduced? It is not easy to describe it, for it is neither Law nor Gospel, and it is a rare eye that can discern it to be common sense. It is suited neither to saint nor to sinner, and where to find an audience for such preaching, in which neither of these shall be, it is utterly impossible to conjecture. . . . There are some who are enamoured of what they call *practical* preaching, by which they mean preaching which is not doctrinal, for they dislike to be made to feel how ignorant they are of the divine scheme of grace, preaching which, taking it for granted that all are Christians, deals out its counsels to all indiscriminately; and which, coming down to the everyday cares and anxieties of life, tends to cheer men in their daily toils by comforts which are furnished by reason rather than by Scripture, and which never flowed from "the fountain of living waters" through Christ crucified. These are the new styles of preaching, and if recent progress is maintained, Pauline preaching will soon cease to be heard from Scottish pulpits (*Sermons*, p. 550).

Still another type of sermon of our own day is that which attempts to present a Bible character in the light

of psychoanalysis. Abraham, Moses, David, Simon Peter, Judas and the dying thief are each given a character dissection, and each part is mounted neatly, labeled and commented upon. The problem is to discover why such men acted as they did. Those who defend such preaching will tell us that Alexander Whyte did it; and was not Dr. Whyte one of the greatest of his generation? Did not all Edinburgh queue up for half an hour, twice every Sunday, before what was then called Free St. George's Presbyterian Church? However, were one to read G. F. Barbour's *The Life of Alexander Whyte* (London, 1923), he will discover that Dr. Whyte preached a Law and Gospel sermon morning and evening at St. George's. His lectures on Bible characters were given after the close of the service, and in the assembly hall adjoining the kirk. Admission was by ticket, and tickets were issued only to those who had attended the entire service at which Law and Gospel had been preached. Dr. Whyte would not permit Hugh Black, John Kelman or any other assistant pastor to discuss Bible heroes, for he declared that such things are not true evangelical preaching. Men may call Whyte legalistic, yet he told his assistants and all guest preachers that only the great truths of redemptive Christianity were permitted in his pulpit.

THE IMMORTAL TRUTHS

It is just these immortal truths of sin and grace that have vanished from many a fashionable pulpit. They have taken refuge in the mission halls and the storefront churches. A few evangelical strongholds still remain in our larger cities, but quite too often do we hear much about life personified, and little in regard to our Lord crucified. Men are preaching psychology and religious psychiatry instead of sin and salvation.

Evangelical preaching begins with the fact that all men, by reason of the Fall, are sinful creatures. Except for the grace of God and the merit of Jesus Christ, such men are helpless. The Law can bring the sinner to a knowledge of his lost state, but the Law cannot save him. Jesus Christ, true God, became man for our sake. He was born of the Virgin Mary without a human father. Where man had failed miserably to obey the Law, Jesus Christ became our substitute in respect to the Law. He kept it perfectly, and God accepted the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ as though it were ours. Our Lord Jesus likewise became our substitute in respect to the penalty of the Law. The wages of sin is death, and our Lord Jesus died for us, taking our place on the Cross, so that hell-deserving sinners might not have to die. He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven. He is coming again, and we may be sure that every one of us will stand before our Saviour on the last day.

He offers salvation freely to all men by grace; and grace is a gift that no man has earned nor deserved. If a man is saved, it is due entirely to this grace of God and the merit of Jesus Christ. If a person is lost, it is due entirely to his own sin and unbelief. Faith is the only thing asked of us, and even this saving faith is God-given. The true believer is assured of unending joys in heaven, whereas those who reject the Saviour can expect only the fires of hell.

What is wrong with much of the preaching of today? Precisely the lack of these basic truths of the New Testament. Evangelical truth is no longer questioned in the pulpit. The method of some preachers of today is to ignore it. The fault of such men lies in what they do not say. In place of Law and Gospel they substitute their innocuous sermonettes on "the cares and anxieties of life," and they seek "to cheer men in their daily toils by comforts which are furnished by reason rather than by Scripture."

If we would see a religious awakening in our time, this can be accomplished only by a return to just that which brought about every spiritual awakening in the past, namely, a fearless preaching of Law and Gospel, sin and salvation. Men have tried other methods, yet the basic fact remains that "it pleased God by the

foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (I Cor. 1:21). This Gospel that God permits men to preach is a means of grace. It is a bridge over which the Holy Ghost comes to men, and thus we say that the Gospel is a means of grace.

Men have tried to bring about religious awakenings by other methods. Many have assured us that an indifferent world, and a Christian church diluted with secular ideas, will pay no heed to our message of repentance and faith until we form a strongly centralized ecclesiastical government. However, our Lord said, "Thus is it written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that *repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations*" (Luke 24: 46-47). He tells us in Matthew 28: 19-20 to go, preach, baptize and teach all nations. Where faithful men preach Law and Gospel in their entirety, such efforts will prove effective. Sinners will be brought to repentance. Uncertainty will yield to conviction. Weakness of faith will become strength of faith. Through the power of God the Holy Ghost the benefits of our Saviour's suffering, death and resurrection, and the merit of the perfect obedience of Jesus Christ will be given to the believing Christian. END

Sex and Smut on the Newsstands

RALPH A. CANNON and GLENN D. EVERETT

A virulent moral sickness is attacking American society. Its obvious symptoms may be seen at any newsstand in large cities or small. American society is becoming mentally, morally and emotionally ill with an unrestrained sex mania.

For two years we have been independently—and in the last six months cooperatively—studying trends in popular magazines and paper-backed books. We have watched, appalled, as scores of new titles have made

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their appearance in the magazine field, many of them violating every standard of decency which has hitherto been recognized in the publishing field.

We are convinced that the only reason there has not been an indignant outcry from our nation's religious leaders is that few have been advised of the extent to which standards have plunged. We ourselves are incredulous as we survey from month to month some of the cartoons, jokes and stories that appear in the so-called "men's entertainment magazines."

CHURCHES ASLEEP

It is high time that our churches awaken to the kind of material being circulated to teen-agers and young adults of both sexes, sold openly at drug stores and newsstands under the guise of sophistication and respectability. While the guardians of our Christian moral standards have been comfortably sleeping, those who seek profits

by pandering to sensuality and lawlessness have been reaping a golden harvest.

Distasteful and unpleasant as the subject of pornography may be, it is one that imperatively calls for the attention of every churchman in our nation who is concerned with preserving the sanctity of the Christian home as the basic unit of American society.

The expose magazines like *Confidential*, and its imitators, *Whisper*, *Hush-Hush* and *Uncensored*, enjoy circulations running into the millions. Using the language of the gutter and the names of celebrities whose marital misadventures they exploit, they are spreading the cynical philosophy "Everybody's doing it!" to millions of impressionable young people.

The so-called "men's entertainment magazines," led by *Playboy*, and its imitators, *Nugget*, *Dude*, *Bachelor*, *Gent* and *Modern Man*, hide behind covers of innocuous, sophisticated design, while they peddle article after article glorifying prostitution, sadism, orgies and sexual perversion.

The "girlie" magazines, such as *Night and Day*, *Paris Life*, *Tab*, *Pin-Up Art* and literally scores of others, go farther each issue in portraying nudity than has ever been the case before. More important, the models are posed in a languorous manner calculated to be as suggestive as possible. It is difficult to stay within the bounds of good taste and convey to the decent citizen who rarely peruses such periodicals and almost never reads the stories, the extent of the depravity to which they have sunk. The current February issue of *Playboy* which can be obtained from almost any newsstand can serve as a typical example. The language of the gutter is flaunted with a sneer and detailed descriptions of the most sordid acts of fornication are given on almost every page.

These magazines are known to the high school crowd across America, so the mention of the likes is not unwise; it is the ministers of America who are unaware of them, and ministerial meetings and councils that must be put on the alert for swift action.

OPENLY ANTI-CHRISTIAN

The immorality of such magazines does not lie simply in the fact that there is too much unadorned flesh and an excessive use of indecent language, but rather in the over-all attitude toward sex represented by such publications. The philosophy of these magazines is not just amoral. It is openly and avowedly anti-Christian.

Sex is depicted as a merely biological, animalistic function in the same category as eating and breathing. Women are completely de-personalized and are shown merely as pliant machines which men utilize for brutish pleasure. We have read hundreds of stories in these magazines and in not one has the heroine ever been depicted as having the slightest moral objection to

seduction. If the man does not achieve his lustful purpose, it is only because his technique is not right. The typical woman who populates these publications is herself a nymphomaniac whose entire existence and nature is tied up in one prolonged, unbearable, insatiable desire to perform the sex act.

Anyone who puts any stock in virtue, chastity, fidelity or restraint is ridiculed. They are depicted as victims of outmoded hypocritical prudery. To have any scruples about free erotic indulgence is to be neurotically repressed. These magazines are advocating a pagan, libertine philosophy of life directly opposed to the Christian concept of love and marriage. It has become in the last 12 months the most sustained and insidious attack on the moral standards of this nation ever witnessed in the history of our Republic.

A certain pattern runs through the fiction offered in all these periodicals. One theme is to depict religious persons as fanatics and hypocrites. One magazine recently published a story about a Southern Baptist clergyman who in the process of "saving" a sister from her frustrations, "redeemed" her by committing adultery with her. The writer of this obscenity and blasphemy took care to make his subject a Protestant minister and not a Roman Catholic priest, for that church would surely have moved in massive protest.

Another theme is the glorification of prostitution. It is depicted not as a degraded, back-street crime, but as something that smart girls of the upper middle class do. *Bachelor*, a magazine obviously aimed at college students in pictures, cartoons and text recently published a story "The Girls in Dormitory A" which told of co-eds who ran a house of ill fame on the night their housemother was out. She caught them, as inevitably she must, but her reaction was to turn it into a real "business operation" open every night.

We also see recurring in cartoons and stories the theme of the wife who prostitutes herself to her husband's employer so that he can obtain a raise or a promotion to branch manager. *Playboy* has even gone so far as to make a cartoon jest about incest. Nothing is too degraded for these magazines to touch, for under the libertine standard which they espouse, any restraint on sex relationships is puritanical repression from which "modern man" should be liberated.

CONTEMPT FOR RELIGION

The attitude of contempt in which these publications hold religion is illustrated by attacks on Evangelist Billy Graham in the January issue of *Rave* and the March issue of *Foto-Rama*, both now on newsstands.

Rave depicts Graham on its cover as a huckster offering a hot breakfast cereal labeled "Instant Salvation." The story, entitled "How to Sell GOD" bears the subtitle "Billy Graham, the Hotshot of the Hucksters,

Is Delivering a Packaged Heaven to All who Heed the Call." The article accordingly declares, "Something new has been added to the fiery-eyed procession of doom merchants." After paying respects to Jeremiah as "scary-looking," Savonarola as "scrawny and scowling," and Billy Sunday as a "baggy-kneed solo artist," the writer bitingly ridicules Graham's neat appearance and smooth sermon delivery.

A photograph of Graham talking to President Eisenhower carries the caption "Billy and Ike—Anybody Who Doesn't Like What he Gives Them can go to Hell." *Rave*, which in some respects appears to be an aptly-named magazine, summarizes its opinion of Graham's ministry as "road-show Christianity—superficial, sentimentalized, sold by the best Fuller Brush man in North Carolina . . . a product that will oh-so-easily make you five shades whiter."

Foto-Rama, by contrast, treats Graham with a mocking reverence. It seems engaged simply in exploiting Graham's name for the sake of a superficial respectability—perhaps in order to include at least one article which counsel can quote if the publication is prosecuted for obscenity. The cover of *Foto-Rama* carries a large caption: "In Sex: Does Practice Make Good Lovers?" Underneath appears the headline "What Billy Graham Thinks of Girls." The first article, of course, is one advocating "more liberal sex education" in schools.

In the article on Graham, the magazine gives passing notice to the evangelist's emphasis on the Christian home as the foundation of American society, then spends most of the space discussing the business side of his crusades. The article concludes a largely critical and cynical account of his work with the pious observation: "*Foto-Rama* salutes Billy Graham for the splendid work he is doing in bringing religion into American lives."

Foto-Rama then gets on with what it obviously conceives to be its business—to bring into American lives such articles as "How the Strippers Took Paree"; a near-nude photo sequence entitled "S is for Sizzle"; and an expose-type article "Why Do Men Throw Stag Parties?," subtitled "There Were Thirty Men Standing When the Naked Corinne Went Through the Motions." These stories, together with the inevitable article appealing to sadism, a sordid, depraved tale of alleged cannibalism during World War II entitled "I Ate My Buddy!" would seem to constitute the real mission of *Foto-Rama* in American life. We might add, in passing, that a disturbing number of articles appealing to sadism appear in recent issues of the sex magazines. Sadism is the most vicious of all sex perversions, since it leads to horrible sex crimes and is a factor in the break-up of many marriages. Yet these magazines, in their lust for the dollar, do not hesitate

to pander even to this base instinct of depraved men.

We must voice a most urgent call to our Protestant churches to join in a vigorous campaign to re-establish common standards of decency in publishing.

The United States Supreme Court in the case of *Roth v. U. S.* last June gave us a workable legal definition of obscenity. It is, to quote the Court, "The presentation of sex in a manner appealing to the prurient interest." The Court added the caution that it must be judged in the light of "contemporary community standards."

The Court made it clear that obscenity has no standing under freedom of the press. The way is open, therefore, for use of the courts to prosecute those newsstand dealers, and those wholesale distributors, who bring sex magazines into a community if they fail to heed appeals for a voluntary clean-up.

CHURCHMEN'S COMMISSION

An organization to co-ordinate Protestant efforts in this field has recently been established known as the Churchmen's Commission for Decent Publications. Membership is open to any Protestant layman or minister concerned with this problem. Its membership includes a more broadly representative group of Protestantism than any group ever brought together. Inman Douglass of the Committee on Publication of the Christian Science Church is the Commission's first president; Frederick E. Reissig of the Council of Churches, National Capital Area, vice president; Dr. Clyde W. Taylor, of the National Association of Evangelicals, secretary; Editor Carl F. H. Henry of *CHRISTIANITY TODAY*, treasurer. Mr. O. K. Armstrong, contributing editor of *Reader's Digest* and Southern Baptist layman, is legislative chairman.

The very word "censorship" is repugnant to Protestant leaders. The alternative to Protestant inactivity in this field, however, is to leave it by default entirely to Roman Catholic groups. Inevitably, their approach to the issue differs greatly from the Protestant position. Wherever there is strong Catholic-inspired legislation against indecent literature, as in the Province of Quebec, for example, we soon find such things as the movie "Martin Luther" being banned also because it would "disturb the public order."

Censorship, in the sense of establishing a board of public censors whose approval must be obtained before a book or magazine may be published or a movie exhibited is clearly repugnant to the American tradition and to the U. S. Constitution itself. The Churchmen's Commission, therefore, favors efforts to obtain voluntary co-operation in securing compliance with community standards. Where this fails, the question of "obscenity" in the light of prevailing community standards should be decided by local judges and juries.

We have laws against dope peddlers and against those who would promote the practice of prostitution. We similarly have laws against those who would subvert the basic foundations of society by assailing its moral standards. All that is needed is for existing laws to be enforced in light of the Supreme Court's workable and intelligent definition of "obscenity." Public opinion must be mobilized to do the job. Most of these magazines do not have a leg on which to stand if they are brought into court.

We frankly appeal to churchmen and churchwomen of every persuasion, conservative or liberal, to join

hands in common defense of the morals of our society. An assault has been mounted against everything Jesus Christ, Paul and the Apostles taught concerning love, marriage and the family. If our churches fail to answer it, they will rue the day that their timidity and inaction gave a victory, by default, to the advocates of paganism.

(Address of the Churchman's Commission on Decent Publications is Suite 100, Western Union Building, 1405 G Street, N.W., Washington 5, D. C. The research and action reports which it publishes will be of great help in organizing local drives to clean up newsstands and to keep them clean.—ED.)

Survey of Old Testament Books

DAVID W. KERR

The Preacher's remark that "of the making of many books there is no end" comes readily to mind when anyone attempts a survey of this sort. The current revival of religious interest in the United States has been accompanied by a renewed interest in the production of religious books on the part of many publishers. Some who had discontinued religious titles have resumed their publication. Others whose interest had been confined to liberal points of view have discovered that conservative and evangelical Christians provide a good potential market. It is to be hoped that the support of these publishers may give further impetus to the progress of biblical Christianity.

In order to be more than an extended book notice, a survey must be also an evaluation. As such, it will represent in some measure the theological viewpoint of the writer. In this case, the viewpoint is that of one who is Reformed in doctrine, holding to a type of inspiration of the Scriptures which is not accepted by many of those whose works have been examined. It is hoped that this acknowledgment will help the reader to understand better any criticisms which are offered; at the same time, should the authors peruse these pages, they may be assured that even where there has

been disagreement there has been enjoyment and profit.

The publication this year of the Revised Standard Version of the Apocrypha (Nelson) has not created anything like the furor which greeted the same version of the Old Testament. This is no doubt due to the fact that those who objected to the Old Testament version will likely ignore the apocryphal books. The appearance of the Apocrypha is, however, symptomatic of a renewed interest in the matter of the canon. It is surely significant, too, that a very cogent argument for not receiving the Apocrypha as canonical is offered by one who was himself a member of the translation committees. In *Which Books Belong in The Bible* (Westminster), Floyd V. Filson states that canonicity means primarily that certain books are basic and authoritative and that the idea of the canon includes the continuing spiritual authority of the books. Of the Apocrypha he states, "They are not Scripture, and they have no right to a compromise position which practically treats them as Scripture while maintaining the fiction that they are without influence on doctrinal thinking" (p. 150).

Over against the view of Filson, who holds that we do not accept the Old Testament canon by slavish necessity because Jesus and the apostles did, is the position of Laird Harris expressed in *Inspiration and Canonicity of the Bible* (Zondervan). There it is said that the Lord Jesus Christ's seal of approval . . . is guarantee enough of the canonicity of the Old Testament for those who find in him the Way, the Truth and the Life (p. 179). Much valuable material is found here, including a chapter which deals with

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some objections to verbal inspiration, an objectionable doctrine to many of the other writers be mentioned.

LITERARY INTRODUCTIONS

One of the most interesting books in this field that came to your reviewer's attention is already three years old, but it is valuable at once for its description and its analyses of modern Old Testament scholarship. This is the work by Herbert F. Hahn, *Old Testament in Modern Research* (Muhlenberg), in which he criticizes incisively the various approaches to the Old Testament such as the critical, sociological, archaeological, etc. The effort at synthesis of these will not satisfy the orthodox student, however.

Problems of introduction, such as the date, authorship and purpose of the Old Testament writings, have not had much by way of new consideration in the past year. *The Books of the Old Testament*, by Robert H. Pfeiffer (Harper) is an abridgement of his earlier *Introduction*. In the author's own words, it "adds nothing, changes no conclusions, and omits much . . ." (p. x). It is a popular presentation of Dr. Pfeiffer's position and will bring the developmental view of Israel's history and religion down to a more popular level. Those who have known the author will readily grant his sincerity in saying that there is no conflict between deep religious faith and historical investigation about the Bible. They may, however, have great difficulty in accepting his idea that both Haggai and Malachi are of slight religious and literary importance (p. 323), or that objective study shows that none of the Pentateuchal codes (except a nomadic decalogue) could have been promulgated by Moses (p. 70).

It is a good exercise to compare with Pfeiffer's position an excellent study by G. T. Manley, *The Book of the Law* (Eerdmans). In an objective manner, showing a large acquaintance with the literature of all points of view on the topic, he seeks to show a real, historical connection of Deuteronomy with Moses. Since the date of the origin of Deuteronomy has been said to be the Achilles' heel of the developmental view, the question is still vital.

BIBLICAL BACKGROUNDS

A very delightful assignment was the reading of Denis Baly's *The Geography of the Bible* (Harper). The author's attitude toward his topic is at once clear when he says that God in Christ "came into the land which he had prepared for himself and which he had previously used for the revelation of himself during the space of well over a thousand years." As a geographer, Baly relates the features of climate, soil, topography, etc., to the biblical text in a way not surpassed and perhaps not equalled in any other recent work. On a different subject, but equally readable, is the book by

Ludwig Kohler, *Hebrew Man* (Abingdon). Through a kind of detective work, the author tries to depict the physical appearance, life and thought of the average Hebrew. Unfortunately he does not hesitate to contradict the biblical account on what appears to be flimsy evidence, e.g., on the original use of circumcision by the Israelites. Rather too easily the conclusion is reached that the Hebrews were more than ordinarily subject to psychoses and depressions. Nevertheless, a better feeling for the Old Testament may be gained from this book.

Also useable as background study is *Abraham*, by Dorothy B. Hill (Beacon). Regrettably, however, the Genesis story, rabbinical legend, and a vivid imagination are given almost equal validity. The able use of archaeological material in weaving the tale gives a good picture of patriarchal times.

OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

The year has seen a larger than usual number of histories or surveys of the Old Testament period, due partly, it seems, to a desire to relate archaeological findings directly to the contemporary situation, and partly also to elicit that which is of permanent, religious validity in Israel's experience. The two most extensive titles are Bernhard W. Anderson's *Understanding the Old Testament* (Prentice-Hall) and Emiel G. Kraeling's *Bible Atlas* (Rand McNally). The former of these has a greater theological emphasis and is written in a very attractive way. The latter is an atlas and therefore stresses matters of geography and archaeology. Both of them discount to a large extent the miraculous elements in the Old Testament, either by defining away the supernatural or in several instances as, for example, the cycle of Elijah and Elisha miracles, relegating them to the realm of pure legend. An excellent devotional study of these same stories is found in Ronald S. Wallace's *Elijah and Elisha* (Eerdmans), from which any young Christian may profit.

A newcomer to the historical field is R. K. Harrison, a Canadian Anglican, whose *History of Old Testament Times* (Zondervan) is up-to-date and adheres to a high view of the integrity of the Scripture narratives while attempting to find a solution to their problems.

Significant of one trend of thought in Old Testament studies today is the title of a college textbook by Colin Alves, *The Covenant* (Cambridge). Although Alves accepts most of the older documentary views, he finds in the Old Testament concept of the covenant relation a unifying principle not only within the Old Testament but between the Old and the New Testaments. This is true of Anderson, mentioned above, as it is of a number of recent writers, and is the result of the more truly biblical approach to the Bible.

The turning of scholarly attention to archaeology and

theology may be the reason for a dearth of commentaries. At any rate, just one commentary has come to our attention. It is the fine work by Theodore Laetsch on *The Minor Prophets* (Concordia). This is the second in an Old Testament series, the first being *Jeremiah* by the same writer. Laetsch is aware of most of the historical as well as the exegetical problems. Though he is not always kind to those with whom he disagrees, the author's discernment in theology and his positive conviction are stimulating. It is to be hoped that further volumes may appear soon.

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

The revival of biblical theology is the most prominent feature of Old Testament studies and it is not surprising to see a number of titles devoted to this topic. A leader in the reaction to the theological sterility of older liberalism is H. H. Rowley, whose *Faith of Israel* (Westminster) in some respects carries us back to the beliefs of older Reformed theology. Moses gave the people the Decalogue of Exodus 20 (p. 126). There is reason to believe that though the so-called Messianic psalms were used in royal rites of the temple, they were also "Messianic." They held before the king the ideal king (p. 192). The Old Testament covenant was not a legal contract but rather Israel's pledge of loyalty to him who had first chosen and saved her (p. 69). Many will not like the author's views of the origin of Scripture but they will be pleased to hear his conclusions.

A book that is likely to popularize both biblical introduction and theology is *The Book of the Acts of God*, by G. Ernest Wright and Reginald H. Fuller (Doubleday). Wright, whose *Biblical Archaeology* (Westminster) was also published last year, is the author of the Old Testament section. His view of the Old Testament sources is that of most developmental critics. His ideas of the flexibility of the canon are open to criticism. Yet there is much that is helpful to an understanding of the history of God's people, and a serious dealing with the narrative. There is a fine devotional feeling and also a repeated acknowledgment that the Old Testament finds its fulfilment in Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh.

The problems of interpretation of the early chapters of Genesis are mentioned in virtually every work on introduction, history or theology. Two small books are devoted to the topic more particularly. The problem is solved by William M. Logan, *In The Beginning God* (John Knox), by saying that Genesis 1-11 is a series of theological essays dealing with the universal human predicament. Genesis is not concerned with science, and therefore there can be no conflict (p. 14). It is interesting to see that N. H. Ridderbos, of the Calvinistic Free University of Amsterdam, states that since God is the author both of science and of the Bible there

can be no conflict between them. He then explains Genesis I as purely literary form in which historical time plays no necessary role.

Messianic prophecy is coming into its own again in some quarters, without some of the eschatological trappings that have created such disturbance among conservatives in the past. Aaron J. Kligerman, a Hebrew Christian, has given a kind of outline manual on the subject, *Messianic Prophecy in the Old Testament* (Zondervan). Ministers and students who are eager to do some serious study have now been provided with a reprint of what is a monumental work and the only one, to your reviewer's knowledge, that attempts to exegete carefully all the Old Testament messianic prophecies, the famous century-old *Christology of the Old Testament*, by E. W. Hengstenberg (Kregel). Here is good reading from one who, ever more clearly than some modern biblical theologians, saw in the Old Testament the Word who would be made flesh.

TEXT AND CRITICISM

Most graduates of seminaries, it is well known, have little time and no patience for textual criticism. For those who know Hebrew and are still students, whether in seminary or parsonage, a valuable help has appeared in *The Text of the Old Testament*, by Ernest Wurthwein (Macmillan). Using the Kittel *Biblia Hebraica*, third edition, with its critical apparatus, the author has provided an excellent introduction to the Hebrew text, the versions and the methods of Old Testament textual criticism. A series of 41 plates is of great help.

This survey has already become more extensive than was planned, but it is too brief to cover all the titles the publishers have kindly sent to your reviewer. Perhaps the following brief notice will serve to introduce the reader to other available literature:

Broomall, Wick: *Biblical Criticism* (Zondervan). An analysis of destructive higher criticism, with positive approach. Recommended in its field.

Ellis, E. Earle: *Paul's Use of the Old Testament* (Eerdmans). Scholarly investigation of Paul's quotations from the Old Testament.

Field, Laurence N.: *Family Bible Story Book* (Augsburg). Suitable to Junior and Senior High group.

Hanke, Howard: *Christ and the Church in the Old Testament* (Zondervan). A nondispensational approach to the plan of redemption.

Knapp, Christopher: *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Loizeaux). A devotional, biographical study.

Metzger, Bruce M.: *An Introduction to the Apocrypha* (Oxford). An excellent introduction by a member of the translation committee. Recommended for intertestamental studies.

Owen, G. Frederick: *Abraham to the Middle-East Crisis* (Eerdmans). A quick survey of Israelitish history. Very enlightening in modern period. Apparently premillennial.

Pfeiffer, Charles: *The Book of Leviticus* (Baker). A manual for Bible study, excellent for church use. *The Dead Sea*

Scrolls (Baker). A sane, Christian treatment of a pertinent topic, recommended.

Pfeiffer, Robert H., and Pollard, Wil.: *The Hebrew Iliad* (Harper). Popularizes the two-document theory of the Books of Samuel, but makes the story read like an ancient novel. Pleasant.

Robin, Chaim: *Qumran Studies* (Oxford). Rather technical. Helps to understand the Qumran sect from a Jewish viewpoint.

Sloan, W. W.: *A Survey of the Old Testament* (Abingdon). A college textbook. Accepts documentary hypothesis.

Some good theological insights in well-phrased language.

Strachan, James: *Early Bible Illustrations* (Cambridge). Especially interesting to a historian, deals with medieval and early Reformation periods.

Thompson, J. A.: *Archaeology and the Old Testament* (Eerdmans). Will be reviewed later.

Unger, Merrill F.: *Unger's Bible Dictionary* (Moody). A revision of Barnes' *Bible Encyclopedia*. Most articles brief but up-to-date, evangelical. *The Dead Sea Scrolls* (Zondervan). Discusses the scrolls in relation to the New Testament. Review of older archaeological finds.

END

Survey of New Testament Books

MERRILL C. TENNEY

The year 1957 brought a wide variety of books in the field of New Testament studies. Commentaries were numerous, and there were also many critical works of different kinds. Both in the conservative and in the neo-orthodox camps there has been a renewed interest in the study of the Bible, with the result that a great deal of fresh effort has been expended in writing.

A few of the older works have been reproduced, preserving for modern use some that had previously gone out of print. Ellicott's *Commentary*, J. A. Alexander's *Commentary on the Book of Acts*, and Godet's work on *Romans* have all been reprinted by Zondervan. Regardless of their age, much of solid value remains in these older works, and new editions of them should find a ready market.

MORE ON THE SCROLLS

Two more volumes have been added to the lengthening list of books on the Qumran Scrolls. Krister Stendahl, currently teaching at Harvard Divinity School, has edited a text on *The Scrolls and the New Testament*. Twelve of the fourteen chapters of this book are articles previously published in scholarly journals, both in English and in German. The essays deal with the possible relation between the teachings of the Qumran

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Scrolls and the content of the New Testament. Most of them are quite technical, but they are relatively free from hasty speculation and are objective in their viewpoint. The book is published by Harper.

The second, *The Dead Sea Scrolls*, is by Charles Pfeiffer of Moody Bible Institute (Baker). His treatment is complete and objective, and he makes no wild statements about the relation of the scrolls to Christianity. His work is less technical than that of Stendahl's book, but better adapted to the needs of the casual reader.

NEW CRITICAL WORKS

Among the recent critical works are a few that merit special attention. N. B. Stonehouse's *Paul Before the Areopagus* (Eerdmans) is a short miscellany of studies on such topics as "The Areopagus Address," "Who Crucified Jesus?," "The Elders and the Living Beings in the Apocalypse," "Rudolph Bultmann's Jesus," and others. Each of these studies deals with some point of contemporary interest in the interpretation of the New Testament, and is characterized by sound scholarship.

Understanding the New Testament by H. C. Kee and F. W. Young (Prentice-Hall) is a combination of New Testament introduction and survey on a popular level. The typography and illustrations are of superb quality, the writing is lucid and interesting, and the careful integration of New Testament history enables the reader to comprehend easily the growth of the church and the development of the New Testament as a written document. The writers are noncommittal on such important doctrines as the virgin birth of Christ and the bodily resurrection, and on many critical ques-

tions they take a distinctly liberal view. The general outline of the book is, however, accurate, and provides one of the most coherent accounts of the first century that has been published in recent times.

In contrast to the foregoing book, G. A. Hadjantonianou's *Introduction to the New Testament* (Moody Press) is distinctly conservative. It is adapted to the needs of the usual reader who is interested in the subject of how the New Testament came into being. Though conservative in viewpoint, it does not proffer any new solutions for the standing problems of introduction.

The Sources of the Synoptic Gospels: St. Luke and St. Matthew, written by the late Wilfred L. Knox and edited by H. Chadwick (Cambridge) is another attempt to identify the "sources" from which the canonical Gospels drew their material. The editor has utilized materials left by Dr. Knox at the time of his death, and has woven them into a book. He suggests that the non-Markan material in Matthew and Luke does not necessarily come from one document, Q, but that there may have been a number of short tracts used for teaching which the writers of these Gospels combined in their writings. The rejection of a single Q indicates a trend in modern criticism to become increasingly skeptical about the existence of this hypothetical document which, with Mark, has long been supposed to underlie Matthew and Luke. One wonders, however, whether the hypothesis of multiple short tracts is any more likely to be correct. Granting that some of the stories in the Gospels may at times have been used independently in preaching or for illustrative purposes, there is no reason why the testimony of eyewitnesses and the first hand experience of Mark and Matthew may not be equally as acceptable in accounting for the original stuff of the Gospels. Knox did not take a completely rationalistic view of Jesus, nor did he challenge the essential truthfulness of his claim as presented in the Gospels. His theories are, on the whole, more intriguing than convincing.

Barclay's *New Testament Wordbook* (Harper) contains a series of selected studies on various key words of the New Testament. It is lexically accurate, and explains in rather simple form the connotations of some of the more colorful or doctrinally important terms. Whether the reader knows Greek or not, he will find it instructive and helpful in theological study.

FLOW OF COMMENTARIES

Several sets of commentaries are either being completed or are in process. The last volume of *The Interpreter's Bible* on Revelation has been advertised, making the set complete. It is the most massive of modern commentaries. Its introductions are technically thorough, and its expositions are intended to be directly

applicable to modern conditions. Its theological slant is distinctly liberal or neo-orthodox, depending upon the individual author. Illustrative material is up to date, but is not always relevant to the Biblical text.

The New International Commentary (Eerdmans), of which Dr. Stonehouse is general editor, is still in process of production. One or two new volumes have been announced for 1958. Its scholarship is one of the best of the evangelical tradition, and the information in it is solidly packed. It is less homiletical and more analytical than most of its rivals.

The newest arrival in American commentaries is Ralph Earle's work on Mark, the first volume in the new *Evangelical Commentary* series published by Zondervan. Wesleyan in its theological emphasis, it is admirably adapted to popular use. For pastors and Sunday School teachers it is almost ideal. An annotated bibliography of more than one hundred fifty titles, a brief but clear introductory discussion of the author and origins of the Gospel, and a well-organized outline prepare the reader for the commentary which is based on the American Standard Version. The expositions are concise and informative, leaving technical and scholarly questions to the footnotes.

Two pocket commentaries in the Tyndale series, L. L. Morris on *Thessalonians* and R. V. G. Tasker on *James* have appeared (IVF-Tyndale, London, and Eerdmans, U. S.). Another of similar scope, though not of the same series, is J. Schneider on *Hebrews*. Brief and practical, they go directly to the heart of the text, and are useful aids for the busy student or teacher who wishes to acquire a maximum of help with a minimum of technical detail.

C. K. Barrett's *Commentary on John*, originally published in 1955 (SPCK) went through a second printing in 1957. Although a large part of it is devoted to introductory material, the ripeness of its scholarship and the fulness of detail make it one of the strongest commentaries of recent years. Although the author is doubtful of the Johannine authorship of the Fourth Gospel, he is neither careless nor scornful in his treatment of the question. The notes are based on the Greek text, and are intended chiefly for scholars, but there is much in the book that can be profitable to any serious student of the Bible.

C. F. D. Moule's *Commentary on the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to Colossians and to Philemon* begins a new series of the *Cambridge Greek Testament* to replace the former series edited by J. J. S. Perowne. Modern in format, it crowds into less than 200 pages a surprisingly large amount of information, together with a comprehensive bibliography. It is somewhat less a popular commentary than its predecessor, but it perpetuates the verse-by-verse commentary on the Greek text, and refers frequently to contemporary

authors. Its applications are modern and practical.

One of the very best commentaries of the year is Hendriksen's *The Pastoral Epistles* (Baker). Not only is the text carefully and reverently treated, but the basic questions underlying it have been analyzed fairly and astutely. Hendriksen makes a good defense of the Pauline authorship of the Pastorals on linguistic grounds; perhaps the best presentation of the conservative view in recent years.

FRESH TRANSLATIONS

New translations are not numerous, but two deserve attention. Kenneth Wuest's first volume of *The Expanded Translation of the Greek New Testament: The Gospels* attempts to put into English, paraphrase the exact meaning of the underlying Greek original. It is not a smooth literary rendering, nor was it intended to be. It does, however, convey in plain language the connotations of the Greek words that do not appear in ordinary translation, and its author's effort to be faithful to the original is commendable.

The other, *The Book of Revelation*, translated by J. B. Phillips, is in some respects quite the opposite of Wuest's rendering. Phillips' translations, like the others of the Gospels, Acts, and Epistles that preceded

this one, is a casual and easy rendering of Revelation into colloquial English. It reads more smoothly than that of Wuest, and contains some apt renderings, but it is sometimes so free that it does not carry the dignity of the original. Wuest's work will be appreciated by the Bible student who has no knowledge of Greek, but who wishes to catch some of the flavor that the connotations of the Greek text carry. Phillips' translation will be enjoyed by the person who seldom reads the Bible, but who might become interested in it if he could read it in modern speech rather than in the older English of the standard versions.

Regardless of the viewpoint of the individual author, it is obvious that the Bible is still a vital object of discussion. Those who disbelieve its truth cannot ignore it; those who believe it find in it inexhaustible wells of truth from which they continually draw fresh resources.

END

(To the above should be added some mention of Dr. Tenney's own recent book, *Interpreting Revelation* [Eerdmans], which one reviewer calls "the best and most dependable handbook setting forth the fundamental facts about the book, its major teachings, and the significance of its symbolism . . . published in the last quarter-century."—Ed.)

Significant Theological Works

WARREN C. YOUNG

A survey such as this is beset with difficulties, since it requires certain necessary and somewhat arbitrary limitations. In this case the bounds have been set by considering theological works of the more philosophical and apologetic nature. No attempt has been made to include books in the fields of biblical theology and Christian ethics.

The year showed evidence in several ways of a growing concern with the kerygmatic theology of Rudolf Bultmann. For a brief but clear and thoughtful introduction to Bultmann, *Existentialism and Theology*

Warren C. Young is a Canadian by birth, and is author of *A Christian Approach to Philosophy* (1954). He is Professor of Christian Philosophy at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, and recently was elected President of Evangelical Theological Society. He holds the A.B. degree from Gordon College, the A.M. and Ph.D. degrees from Boston University.

(Philosophical Library) by George W. Davis, is unexcelled. Bultmann is endeavoring to show the world that Christianity is not myth but "fact productive of a tremendous faith in God's loving concern and activity" (p. 31). Yet, Bultmann believes that the "New Testament myth" obscures the Gospel for the modern, scientifically brain-washed mind. That is, the kerygma must not be confused with the mythical world view of biblical times in which it is clothed and expressed. For example, as Professor Davis points out, to Bultmann the death of Christ on the cross for our sins is biblical myth—meaningless to modern man; but the idea of the sacrifice of the cross being existentially present and breaking the power of sin in personal life is the good news of Christianity. You may not agree with Bultmann but Davis makes clear what he is trying to do.

Under the title, *The Doctrine of God* (Vol. II, Part

1, Scribner's), another section of Karl Barth's monumental *Dogmatik* has been made available to us in English. Without doubt that decision to make Barth's *magnum opus* available in English represents a major theological event of our day. And whether or not one agrees with Barth does not alter the fact that for the last four decades he has stirred the theological world more than any other man.

In this section Barth begins with the problem of the knowability of God. God can be known in his activity. "He can be known of and by himself. In his essence, as it is turned to us in his activity, he is so constituted that he can be known by us" (p. 65). This God is known to us as "the one who loves" (p. 275). "God's loving is necessary, for it is the being, the essence and the nature of God" (p. 280). God alone is a person. This God whose being is love exists in the three eternal modes, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Barth is not a modalist in the usual sense of the term). "For the Son of God who became flesh in Jesus Christ is, as an eternal mode of the divine being, nothing more nor less than the principle and basis of all divine immanence, and therefore the principle of what we have called the secondary absoluteness of God" (p. 317).

Because of this "absoluteness" Jesus Christ is the only true personality in history and in him we become persons by being adopted into fellowship with God's personal being (p. 286). What Barth means is that sin perverts our true humanity and that we are only truly human when we respond to God's love with reciprocating love. As one reads Barth's long and often tedious discussions, it is hard to see why thousands of pages and millions of words are really necessary.

TILlich ON CHRIST

The most speculative work, and least biblical in nature, to appear last year was the second volume of Paul Tillich's *Systematic Theology* (University of Chicago Press), subtitled *Existence and the Christ*. Here he continues his symbolic or mythical approach to theology which has so characterized his understanding of the Christian faith. Those of us who have been accustomed to an historically realistic understanding of the Christian Gospel find it difficult to appreciate Tillich's symbolism.

Tillich insists that man is a fallen creature in his very creation (p. 44). The primal perfection of man before the Fall is, for him, but "dreaming innocence" (p. 33). There is no point in time and space in which created goodness was actualized and had existence.

Man's hope, the new age, is come in the paradox of the man Jesus as the Christ. This does not mean an historical Incarnation, "for the assertion that 'God has become man' is not a paradoxical but a nonsensical

statement" (p. 94). "Much harm has been done in Christianity, he writes, by a literalistic understanding of the symbol 'Son of God'" (p. 110). Instead, Tillich insists, Jesus is a man, subject to every contingency of existence, but keeping himself in unity with God by constant self-surrender and, at the same time, giving up everything he could have attained by this unity. It is in this ideal of self-surrender that we find, not Jesus the man, but Jesus as the Christ. Christianity was born, not with the birth of the man Jesus, but at that moment when one of his followers was driven to say of him, "Thou art the Christ" (p. 97). Jesus on the cross brings the new age because he suffers the death of a convict and a slave under the power of the old age which he is to conquer. He brings the New Being, for he saves men from the Old Being, that is, "from existential estrangement and its self-destructive consequences" (p. 150). No system could be much further removed from the idea of personal redemption through Jesus Christ, God Incarnate, than this symbolic theology of Paul Tillich.

ON MAN AND SIN

An interesting study of man comes from an Australian scholar, S. B. Babbage, entitled *Man in Nature and in Grace* (Eerdmans). This is an excellent survey, succinct and relevant. In fascinating fashion the author covers areas of Scripture, the classics, historical theology, politics, existentialism, literature, and finally man's immortality. Throughout the study he shows the points of difference between the various views discussed and the biblical understanding of man. He does not hesitate to point out that Augustine "was neither consistently nor thoroughly biblical" (p. 44), and that he was indebted to Plato for many of his ideas. His frankness of approach and his willingness to re-examine long accepted ideas is needed constantly.

The best study on the work of Christ was William J. Wolf's *No Cross, No Crown* (Doubleday). Since it has already been called the most useful and complete study of the Atonement available today (by a reviewer), it is likely that we will be aware of its emphasis for some time to come. Professor Wolf first covers the biblical teaching on the subject at the point where he rejects the idea of penal substitution. Christ atones by dedication of life, not by substitutionary death. In the second section he deals with the Atonement in history, and lastly, its meaning for us today. Christ redeems us from the past (guilt), in the present (justification), and for the future (sanctification). The author puts considerable weight on the Church as the atoning community today. Wolf places much stress on the suffering of God who gives himself for sin. A good point of emphasis is the suffering of Christ as God as well as man. Yet, it is evident that the atoning work of

God is to be found more in suffering itself than in the suffering and death of Christ. Without the cross in life, there is no crown. We too in a sense atone for sin through our willingness to give ourselves. "In our best moments we are responsive to the claims of suffering redemptively for those we love, and yet we recognize that this is really due to the power of God working in us" (p. 199). Again we read, "Human love reaches its peak in costly sacrificial outpouring, or suffering for others. The perfect expression of this paradox is found in the God-man as atoner" (p. 200). Is this the biblical picture of atonement? Is suffering *per se* the atoning work of God in history?

NIEBUHR AND CARNELL

Richard R. Niebuhr's *Resurrection and Historical Reason* (Scribner's) seems to be an exceedingly important work. Although primarily intended as a study in theological method, using the Resurrection of Christ as the key to the investigation, this book also provides us with one of the most penetrating apologetics for the Resurrection fact to appear in many years. The argument centers around "the contention that any attempt to give the Church status, as the Church, independently of its origin in the Resurrection must fail. Failure is certain because such attempts, in dissolving the historic background of the Church, dissolve the Church also, and with it, Jesus Christ" (p. 153). Throughout this thrilling work, as the author makes his critical evaluation of theologians of varying perspectives, he emphasizes again and again that "the excision of the Resurrection tradition from the fabric of the Gospel history is followed by the disintegration of the entire historical sequence of the New Testament" (p. 14). We must quote Dr. Niebuhr directly once again: "No amount of patching with the concepts of hero and of immortality can make a unity of the history again, once the passion and death are surrendered through the dissolution of the Resurrection as the key to the meaning of the New Testament" (p. 16). Strange indeed are the turnings in modern theology as a Niebuhr of a new generation argues for the historicity of the Resurrection from Harvard Divinity School! It is evident that this great name in theological discussion is going to be with us for many years to come.

Last, but certainly not least, is the work by Edward J. Carnell, *Christian Commitment* (Macmillan), also in the area of apologetics. The viewpoint of this work is fresh and somewhat unique. Professor Carnell's thesis is built around the fact of the inadequacy of rational and empirical methodology alone in the area of Christian epistemology. The methods of acquaintance and inference give us ontological truth and propositional truth, but not the whole truth. There is also needed what Dr. Carnell calls the third way of know-

ing, "moral self-acceptance," which leads to the truth of personal rectitude. To know is to be morally responsible for knowing. "Moral facts are never rationally known until they are spiritually felt" (p. 7). He rightly points out that "*Ultimate reality cannot be grasped unless rational knowledge is savored by spiritual conviction*" (p. 13). "The content of the imperative essence cannot be apprehended until one is spiritually transformed by the sum of those duties which already hold him" (p. 22).

Dr. Carnell is not afraid to accept truth no matter where he finds it. The insights of great thinkers are accepted even though they may not stand fully within the evangelical tradition. Hence, he is quite ready to recognize the contribution of such men as Kierkegaard, but he is also just as ready to point out their inadequacies. While Kierkegaard, "using the cold steel of relentless dialectic, chisels away the very foundation of formalistic ethics" (p. 74), at the same time his methodology fails because of his unwillingness to undergird his existentialism with proper and reasonable support based on the sufficiency of evidence (pp. 75-79).

By uniting the three ways of knowing, Professor Carnell has been of real service to the Christian Church. Without the third way there is a definite emptiness. "We certainly dare not treat God as an object; he cannot be regarded as the conclusion of a rational argument. God must be spiritually experienced; he must be encountered in the dynamic of fellowship" (p. 127). God does not speak to abstract, universal man in rationalistic propositions, for such a man does not exist. But God does encounter John, Mary—you and me—in existential experience—in the act of living itself.

Hence, Dr. Carnell can point out that logic has its definite limitations in the presentation of Christian truth. There is something in the Christian faith that transcends the propositional structure of Aristotelian logic and the scientific method. "Whenever a systematic theologian becomes too systematic, he ends up falsifying some aspect of revelation" (p. 285). Our author is saying that revelation cannot always be stated and conveyed in propositional form, for God meets man in the personal, revelatory experience—if we understand him rightly.

While 1957 probably was not the greatest year in the area of theological publishing, it certainly has been most interesting in its developments. We may well be on the threshold of a new era in theological discussion. There are changes of emphasis evident among thinkers of all theological perspectives. The old lines of demarcation seem to be more and more intermingled, if not quite tangled up. There are definite suggestions in the air of exciting developments in the years immediately ahead.

END

Evangelism for Tomorrow

J. MARCELLUS KIK

A Review Article

Evangelism is confronting the Church with a renewed and stirring challenge. Both its nature and its methods of promotion are receiving increased attention. There is a deepening conviction that responsibility for evangelism is really the task of the Church rather than of itinerant and independent evangelists. There is present dissatisfaction over both content and methods. Some feel strongly that present-day evangelism presents a truncated Gospel that is unrelated to pressing social problems.

Indicative of the critical mood is a recent book by Charles B. Templeton, *Evangelism for Tomorrow* (Harper, 1957, \$3.00). Its author has had wide experience in the field of evangelism and writes from firsthand experience.

FOSDICK VERSUS GRAHAM

Most evangelicals will be quite appalled by Dr. Templeton's evaluation of the relative significance of Harry Emerson Fosdick and Billy Graham. He writes of Dr. Fosdick, "A strong case could be made for the assertion that the greatest evangelist of the past generation was Harry Emerson Fosdick. . . . There was an unmistakable evangelistic note at the heart of Fosdick's sermons and real evangelistic passion. It may be that, though anything but typical of his predecessors, he will be seen to have been the outstanding evangelist of his day" (pp. 84-85). He "damns" Billy Graham with faint praise, adding that "Graham has a deficient understanding of the nature of sin, a strong tendency to present conversion as a transaction, a tendency to ally God with America in a common opposition to Communism, and a rather naive conviction that revival will resolve the world's great issues. On the whole, his message typifies the strongly conservative, evangelical Protestant view, and though the majority of the clergy in the major denominations would not entirely concur with Graham's theology or his methods, they are impressed with his earnestness and usually co-operate in his campaigns" (p. 87).

More appalling than this evaluation of Fosdick and Graham, however, is the insipid evangelism that Templeton presents as the "evangelism for tomorrow."

Templeton does not come to grips with the moral law, with sin, with guilt, with judgment. One must search diligently for even a hint of atonement. Yet he writes, "An adequate evangelism is impossible apart from an adequate theology" (p. 64). The discerning reader will detect here the book's unwitting self-condemnation, *inadequate* is the descriptive adjective in evaluating the theology of *Evangelism for Tomorrow*. While the author does provide sharp, and sometimes justified, criticism of nineteenth-century evangelism and of formalism within the instituted church, no positive, constructive evangelism is advanced. One may find religious sentiments and pious utterances scattered here and there, but no vital message addressed to the needs of modern man.

The closest allusion which he makes to the Atonement comes under a concept of reconciliation. He writes, "What is Evangelism? Essentially, evangelism is 'the proclamation of the evangel'—the bearing of a witness in any way and by any means to the good news that 'God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself'" (p. 42). "The Church's good news in the turmoil of time is Christ. At the heart of a world under judgment stands a cross. On that cross is to be seen the love of God in full and perfect expression. . . . This is the good news—that God has taken the initiative: that 'God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself'" (p. 126). The distressing factor about this presentation is that Templeton nowhere explains *how* Christ effects the reconciliation. What actually constitutes the "good news" is missing from the pages of his book. If an evangelist cannot explain to a troubled and convicted conscience *how* Christ has atoned for sin, he has no vital message.

The person of Christ receives emphasis, and rightly so. Templeton stresses the deity of Christ and maintains that the evangelism of tomorrow must be Christocentric (pp. 122 f.). He writes, "Two thousand years ago the world turned a corner and came upon Jesus Christ. *He* is the message of the Church; not his teaching or his example alone, but he, himself" (p. 26). But how can one preach the person of Christ without giving Christ's witness of himself or the witness of the

apostles? Supposing that the world is confronted with the person of the God-man, would not the people say, "So what?" Why did God come to earth and assume human nature? What was the purpose of the Incarnation? Must not the evangelist firmly reply in the words of Christ that "the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28)? To preach the person of Christ indifferently to the Atonement is essentially wrong. Paul determined to proclaim not only the person of Jesus Christ, but him crucified. The absence of biblical definition of atonement vitiates the evangelism advocated by Templeton.

SCORNS 'TRANSACTION'

We have already noted the criticism of Billy Graham for having "a deficient understanding of the nature of sin, a strong tendency to present conversion as a transaction" (p. 87). Graham, however, has sufficient understanding of the nature of sin to know that its evil affronts the holy God, needs the blood of Christ to remove its guilt, and supernatural power to eradicate its power. Templeton does not see, apparently, the heinousness of sin and its offensiveness to God. His quarrel about the concept of conversion as a transaction is not only with Graham but with Christ who said, "Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" and with Paul, who stated this proposition to the Philippian jailor, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." A transaction is an action involving two parties mutually affecting one another. God has promised salvation to those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

A greater service would have been rendered by Templeton had he pointed out the tendency of many evangelists to confuse conversion with regeneration. Often evangelists urge people to be born again as though that were within their power. As our Lord reveals in the third chapter of John's Gospel, one is reborn from above through the power of the Holy Spirit. Through the operation of the Spirit the soul is resurrected from the dead and becomes a new creature. To urge people to resurrect themselves and become new creatures is like demanding the dead to become alive. Jesus gave life to Lazarus before he came forth from the tomb. Regeneration precedes conversion. Genuine repentance and a turning to Christ for salvation mark a true conversion. Conversion may be either a sharply marked moment in life, or a very gradual change.

CONFUSED VIEW OF CONVERSION

Templeton's misunderstanding of the biblical conception of conversion is revealed in several statements. For instance, he confuses sanctification with conversion. He writes, "There is seldom any mention of cor-

porate sins or any awareness of the individual's involvement in the great social ills of our time. Consequently, the converts tend to be converted-only in certain areas of their lives" (p. 119); "Every Christian has areas in his life in which he needs to be converted. One of the major weaknesses of the Church is that much of its membership is only half-converted. . . . The verdict sought through preaching is not necessarily a first decision. Christianity is not a matter of making a single 'decision for Christ'; it is a whole life of decision" (p. 140). Actually there is no such thing as being half-converted or partially converted. The Bible speaks of temporary conversion but not of partial conversion. Conversion that is the fruit of regeneration causes a radical change of mind, will and desires. A new and holy principle of life enters into the soul. This does not mean that one becomes perfect in a moment, but it does mean the beginning of his struggle against sin. If the decision be genuine one does not call for its repetition.

The responsibility of causing the convert to become aware of social ills cannot be placed upon an evangelist whose assignment is to reach the unchurched and the unconverted within the churches. Because the churches have failed on such matters of racial discrimination, economic injustice and commercial exploitation is no reason for making the evangelist the scapegoat.

MISCONCEPTION OF TASK

Yet Templeton maintains that "The goal of evangelism is not to make converts; it is to produce mature Christians" (p. 45). But how can one bring an infant to maturity with several feedings? The Scriptures recognize the necessity of feeding the new convert with the milk of the Gospel. Paul wrote to the Corinthian converts, "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it" (I Cor. 3:2). The Apostle Peter declared, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (I Pet. 2:2). The growth and maturity of the convert is a continual responsibility of the Church and quite outside the specialized work and limited time of the evangelist. The task of the evangelist is to call for decision—to urge conversion. The task of the pastor is to nourish and strengthen new life. Of course, the minister should do both and call in the evangelist only for special concentrated effort.

ROLE OF THE CHURCH

That evangelism should be church-related is without question. In calling attention to this, Templeton describes the Church as "the redeeming fellowship." He writes, "It is impossible to overemphasize the importance of the Church in evangelism. The Church is not only the fellowship of the redeemed, it is a redeeming

fellowship. The Church is at one and the same time the saved and the saving society. . . . When the Church speaks with uncertainty or fails to be a redemptive force at the heart of a society there is an inevitable moral decline" (pp. 111-112).

In the biblical sense of the word, however, the Church does not redeem. Christ has paid the full price of redemption once and for all, and it is the Church's business to witness to the fact of completed redemption, to point to the Redeemer himself. With Zacharias the Church rejoices, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people" (Luke 1:68). This is the heart of the Gospel. Evangelism that ignores this accomplished redemption is surely not biblical evangelism.

'PAPER POPE' DOCTRINE?

Disturbing also in *Evangelism For Tomorrow* is the denial that Scripture is the infallible rule for faith and practice. The statement is made, "Papal infallibility finds its counterpart in a view of biblical inspiration implicitly denying the real presence of the living God at the heart of the Church and substituting, in Luther's words, a 'paper Pope.' The Fundamentalist, like the Romanist, tends to become the patron of Deity and presumes to state under what circumstances God is bound to act" (p. 67). One must ask, does not the

author see that the fundamentalist does not formulate the doctrine of the plenary inspiration of the Scriptures, but reflects the teachings of Christ and the apostles? And does the author ignore the fact that high views of inspiration are found in almost all of the creeds of the historic denominations?

Templeton also speaks in this connection of the historical method of criticism which he claims provides a better understanding of the Bible and a faith more firmly rooted in history (p. 33). It might be asked again, of course, why then has biblical preaching disappeared to so great an extent from the modern pulpit? The contribution of many higher critics has been to leave the minister puzzled as to how much is left of the Bible to preach. No one can deny that all successful evangelists in the history of the Church have been those who believed in the infallibility of Scripture. This is not the doctrine of a "paper pope," but the doctrine of a reliable revelation made by the loving God.

The resurgence of interest in evangelism nevertheless constitutes a hopeful sign in this generation. But if the evangelism of tomorrow is that advocated by Templeton, then it will sound forth as a truncated gospel, a bloodless atonement, an unfinished redemption and an unauthoritative message—all adding up to a warmed-over, bankrupt liberalism. END

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A LAYMAN and his Faith

SIMPLICITY IN PREACHING—A PLEA

FAR MORE than some realize, there is danger of making the Christian faith seem so complicated that it is not understood by laymen; or, it may be so attenuated as to become practically devoid of spiritual and practical content.

Many ministers, intrigued with the craftsmanship of preaching, unconsciously project their messages over the heads of their congregations. Others, particularly in their writing, keep the theologically elect in mind and write primarily to them. But when others, remembering the man in the street, express Christian truth in non-technical terms they are sometimes accused of an oversimplification of the Gospel.

¶ It would prove a blessing to all concerned if it were recognized that the ordinary layman—the man in the office, in the shop, in the everyday pressures of work—needs a Christian faith which is vital but simple, concise but accurate, factual but practical.

One justified criticism of much of modern preaching is its failure to be specific. This can stem from taking too much for granted—assuming that those who listen are believers and instructed Christians. Again it can be a deliberate evasion of crucial theological truth. In either case it is the laymen who suffer, and through them the entire Church.

Unquestionably we who make up the congregations across the world need to know our duties as Christians, both as to personal living and corporate responsibilities. But it does little good to tell us what to do unless we have the power to carry out such responsibilities and that power is found in the living Christ. We need to know more about Him.

Christian ethics are desperately important, for only too often we belie our faith by the way we live and speak. But, it must never be forgotten that there can be no effective Christian ethic without the Christian dynamic and that is to be found in the Lord Jesus Christ and his indwelling Spirit.

It may sound trite but it is everlastingly true that the Christian faith centers in a person—Jesus Christ. But this statement is adequate only as we understand its implications. We need to know something about him, who he is and what he does for us. Christianity embraces certain facts without which Chris-

tianity is little more than an empty term. And it is just that to many people. We are instructed as to the fruits of Christianity without knowing the Root, the source of the fruit.

¶ But Christianity does not end with accepting certain great and eternal truths. God forbid! The exercise of faith is the door through which we enter into a fellowship with Christ that should affect us every hour of the day and night. A simple faith should lead to a practical application of that faith.

The average layman faces innumerable temptations and problems each day and he painfully muddles along because Christ has never become a personal or practical reality. He is neither the object of our praise nor is he our daily companion. He is neither the source of guidance nor the arbiter of our ethics. But a simple faith will lead us to appropriate the help and the blessings open for and assured to those who accept and know him.

Decisions have to be made; frustrations or triumphs come; there may be unexpected sorrows, or joys, but because we lack this simple faith we miss so much. We walk in loneliness because we neither recognize nor turn to the One who is there unseen.

There is not a problem that cannot be taken to Christ. This may be in the seclusion of our room, or in the crowded ways of life. How often there are circumstances which demand immediate help, guidance, strength. A simple faith will reach out and lay hold on Christ and receive from him the help and wisdom needed at that particular moment.

Temptations? Yes! And the strength to overcome, or the spiritual insight to see the escape route he has provided.

Problems? Yes, and the wisdom to sense the solution which the Holy Spirit will give.

Sorrow? Yes, and the comfort and strength so needed and so precious at such times.

Success? Yes, and the ability to see our good fortune in its relationship to eternal values.

¶ This is *not* an oversimplification of either the Christian faith or of its practical aspects. The Scriptures make it abundantly plain that the essentials of

the Christian faith are so simple that a little child may grasp them and so profound that the most scholarly never exhaust their depths. It is also clear that Christianity is not to be excluded from the so-called trivialities of life, or from its complicated problems.

A simple faith will maintain a vital connection with Christ all the time and under all circumstances. And with it will come a peace and joy which our Lord so truly described as being beyond understanding. We also begin to see sin for the distressing thing that it is, while forgiveness and cleansing become precious realities.

This is an appeal for a return to simple preaching, to Christ-centered preaching, to the authoritative preaching which has its source in the Book rather than in books.

It is our conviction that such can be great preaching for its very simplicity demands a profundity of understanding and a clarity of expression that comes from much prayer and from a saturation with the holy Scriptures. In such preaching the opinions and writings of men decrease as the profound affirmations of divine revelation increase—and the effect of the message becomes more profound on those who hear it.

In no sense of the word is this a plea for a trite recitation of orthodox shibboleths or phrases. But it is a plea to preach the Christian faith in terms of such simplicity that it becomes relevant for everyday and vitally connected with the living Christ.

¶ For some this could require considerable adjustment, for it is an humbling experience to return to the ABC's of Christian truth when one has long since passed on to its more complex depths.

For others it could require a complete re-examination of the essential factors of Christianity itself. Such examination could prove most rewarding.

From the standpoint of the layman, nothing could prove a greater blessing than to learn that Christ is a living reality, and that a simple faith in him has its issue in a daily fellowship which permeates every phase of life.

It is the lack of this simple faith that is keeping men outside the Kingdom of God. It is a failure to grasp the implications of this faith that keeps so many Christians from living their faith before the world.

And it is a lack of this simple faith that lessens the influence of the Church and causes many to turn from her unsatisfied.

L. NELSON BELL

UPTURN IN EVANGELICAL PUBLISHING

The last decade has witnessed a vigorous resurgence of evangelical publishing. This has been observed on a broad front, not only in this country but also in England and the Continent, and it has been evidenced not only in a flood of books, both reprints and originals, but also in the field of periodicals.

In our own country there has been a rather general impression of late years that the current evangelical revival, in so far as the printed page is concerned, was expressing itself chiefly in the form of reprints of theological works of an earlier era. True, this is part of the picture, fragmentary even if obvious and noteworthy at times. But viewed in proper perspective, the postwar theological reprint publishing bonanza must be regarded as only a necessary preliminary action in the developing evangelical movement to face the world once again with a respectable, scholarly literature.

Nor is it the case, as many have supposed, that the renewed emphasis on evangelical publishing has been solely a hinterland phenomenon, confined to a few relatively new midwest and far west organizations. Actually, some of the most significant events in recent publishing history, from an evangelical point of view, have been taking place in the traditional strongholds of American publishing—New York and the other metropolitan centers of the eastern United States.

It must be admitted at once that religious publishing has not yet regained its former position and vigor. Solid evangelical and theological books once were reviewed prominently in the large metropolitan papers and discussed in the daily columns of the nation's leading commentators. Today we do not find the Menckens and the Lippmanns of the moment commenting seriously on volumes of apologetics, as in fact they did thirty and forty years ago. However, books on and about religion and theology are getting more attention in the public press than they did some years ago.

The greater public interest in Christian books is noted also in the rapid growth of the Christian Booksellers Association, now in its ninth year, and numbering several hundred dealers in the United States and Canada. Spurred initially by the dearth of religious books offered in secular bookstores and department stores, the movement has grown up and prospered. Indeed, faced by this sizable competition, the larger secular outlets now provide a partial counterthrust by

an increased display of religious titles on their tables.

New York publishers' row in recent years has had its eye fixed on the potential religious best seller, and books in this category indeed have been a real phenomenon of the present decade. In one recent year, four of the top ten books in sales (outside the Bible, perennial best seller) were on religious themes. It is unfortunate that one cannot claim many of these as evangelically sound in their witness, but they supply part of a more favorable national atmosphere furnishing the framework for greater acceptance of the evangelical Christian message and its literature. So we might observe such excellent works as the Peter Marshall books coming from McGraw-Hill, the Billy Graham books from Doubleday and *Through Gates of Splendor* from Harper and Brothers. Other publishing giants have works of the same quality and emphasis on their programs, and the republication of Jonathan Edwards' works greets us from none other than the presses of Yale University.

No doubt all this reflects somewhat the new look at religion in our day, as does the increased importance attached to religious news in the secular papers. The weekly religion pages are featuring more articles of an interpretive background nature, but limiting themselves to purely local news items and features. Some papers are mixing religious news in their columns on a daily basis, even front-paging significant stories, and many leading dailies have full-time religion editors.

Books and authors are important factors in shaping public opinion and theological climate. But what is published in a generation is also to a large extent a mirror of the culture of the times. This is not to imply that publishers are followers rather than leaders of public attitudes. But market acceptance, and the estimate of such potential, plays a large role in the consideration of manuscripts by all publishers. It is, of course, not amiss that manuscripts on religious topics should be judged in some measure by the demand of the market. Neither should they be exempt from requirements of literary standards.

The encouraging fact in all this is that works of an evangelical stripe are again being entertained—and published—by some of the larger secular publishing houses whose lists have not included much if any of this type of material for a generation or more. Editors insist that

there has never been any deaf ear to expressions of evangelical thought; that the fault has been with the quality of the material offered; that conservative theological works submitted have always been judged by the same standards, both literary and content-wise, as the expressions of liberal thought. Perhaps they are right; it has been pointed out repeatedly in recent years that there has been a dearth of scholarly evangelical endeavor for a generation or two. Let us hope that this unfruitful era is now past, and that the renewed publishing interest attests this hopeful prospect.

It should be noted that the New York lists have always carried a number of outstanding conservative titles, scholarly volumes that have stood the test of time and remain in perennial demand, such as Machen's *Virgin Birth*, Schaff's *Creeeds of Christendom*, Young's *Concordance* and other standard works. Editors point to these as evidence that there has been no prejudice or lack of hospitality to the evangelical viewpoint. They would also insist that their current viewpoint reflects nothing new, that the same standards as always are being applied, and that the material being offered today just seems to be an improvement over that of past years.

One thing big city book editors want to make clear: that they do not wish in any way to "categorize" religious books as to source or viewpoint—conservative, evangelical or liberal—and above all, that there is no "quota" in their lists on this basis. Whether this is a tenable position in publishing, all things considered, is a debatable question. At least, the editorial doors today are open to manuscripts that meet reasonable standards of literary quality and scholarly work, we are assured. Some houses have added prominent evangelical leaders as editorial advisors; for instance, Harper's religious department in the last year made connections with Dr. Frank E. Gaebelin, one of CHRISTIANITY TODAY's contributing editors in such capacity, and other houses have made similar moves. Many works in the areas of theology and religion now refer more accurately and more sympathetically to evangelical Christianity and its positions than in recent decades.

One of the most important and timely boosts in evangelical publishing, both psychologically and economically, was the formation in 1954 of Evangelical Books, a monthly book club spurred by Dr. Gaebelin, Dr. Harold Ockenga, Dr. Paul Rees and others. In the three and one-half years of its operation it has used some 70 evangelical volumes as selections and dividends—a list of titles and authors that reads like a *Who's Who* in the evangelical movement. The selections have included some very solid and substantial volumes on theology, Bible study, ethics and so forth. Thus it has not only supplied a large new outlet for worthy

volumes that would otherwise have had limited sale (current distribution is said to run about 12,000 copies), but it has also given publishers something to aim at when planning their programs, and has made worthwhile the publishing of good works that otherwise might have gone begging as insufficiently popular to hold promise of a good sale.

Among the larger volumes that have thus received widespread distribution are such substantial works as *The New Bible Commentary*, Edwards' *Freedom of the Will*, *Christian Personal Ethics*, Unger's *Bible Dictionary*, *Contemporary Evangelical Thought* (that promises to be the forerunner of a series of important surveys), and many others that one would not classify as popular literature. Yet this type of studious product has found ready and wide acceptance, a happy situation that would hardly have prevailed some years ago.

In England, too, the postwar years have seen a great deal of publishing activity in the evangelical camp, paced chiefly by authors and enterprising young publishers associated more or less with the growing movement of Inter-Varsity Fellowship of Evangelical Unions. Most of the resulting works have found their way quickly onto American publishers' lists, and they have been a welcome import. In The Netherlands the production of books of the Reformed stamp has gone on with accelerated vigor in postwar years, and many of these (especially books by Berkouwer and Dooyeweerd) have made their way through translation into the American and British markets, scoring considerable impact.

While we are indeed heartened by the renewed evidence of such a revival, none of this is meant to imply that the evangelical stamp was entirely missing for long periods in the great publishing centers. On the contrary, there has always been a flow, even if diminished, of evangelical works from houses in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Nashville and elsewhere. We are reminded of the continuity of such a house as Fleming H. Revell, now nearing 90 years of publishing evangelical books in the New York area, on whose list some titles still in demand go back to the earliest days of the firm.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the Revell firm grew out of the evangelistic crusades of the great Dwight L. Moody. Revell was Moody's brother-in-law and the latter literally drafted him to put out a paper for his campaign and follow-up program, and thus launched the young man into a publishing career. Similarly today many new literature projects are growing out of the impact of the Billy Graham crusades in American life, adding the dimension of the printed page to "Revival in Our Time."

END

Bookselling as a Ministry

R. GORDON MITCHELL

According to a recent estimate of UNESCO, about 25 million people are learning to read every year. Schools, missions, governments and political groups the world over are encouraging people to master the technique of reading, and new literates are eager to read just about anything they can get hold of. But unfortunately, those in the more primitive countries tend to be too quick in accepting without question whatever appears in print.

Non-Christian agencies, both religious and political, have been quick to seize this opportunity for spreading their teaching. The Communists, anti-Christian ideologies, many cults and isms have exploited the literature approach to great advantage in recent years. Millions of their books and tracts have been printed, sold below cost, or given away. This widespread use of the printed page by enemies of the truth, nevertheless, shows the clear evidence of its tremendous value. To be certain of the true worth of anything, of course, one must ascertain the value that God places on it. This is particularly true of the production and distribution of Christian literature.

We read in the Old Testament that when long ago God looked upon this world and found it steeped in idolatry, he called Abraham of Ur of the Chaldees and informed him, first, that he intended to bring into being the Hebrew nation as a channel through which the Messiah, the Saviour, the living Word of God would come; and second, he desired to place in the world a depository for this truth—his written Word. In speaking of this, the Spirit of God says in Romans 3:2: "... unto them were committed the oracles of God." This is true not only of the Old Testament but most of the New Testament as well.

When we realize that God placed such a high value on his written Word that he produced a special nation to receive and record it, we get just a little conception of the tremendous value he places on that Word. Perhaps it should not surprise us that the written message should be so vital. The spoken message has a way of

R. Gordon Mitchell is President of the Christian Booksellers Association of the United States and Canada. He owns and operates a wholesale and retail book business under the name of Home Evangel Book Shop in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

changing, but the written story, reprinted or even carefully translated, will remain the same for centuries.

Since God raised up a nation to receive his Word, is it any wonder that he should raise up a means in our day for the dissemination of that Word? We have always been convinced that God raises up men and agencies to fulfil his purposes, and we are equally convinced that the Christian bookstore today is an agency with men and women called of God to do a special piece of work for his Kingdom. Men and women serving God today in the Christian bookstore field are just as completely persuaded of being called of God for their work as are missionaries in foreign lands. So great is their conviction of this that they would no more offer for sale a volume that is not true to Scripture than they would enter a pulpit and proclaim a false message.

Christians of any community should praise God if they have a good Christian bookstore in their area. Furthermore, they should pray for those responsible for such a store, should seek to support it, and should encourage others to do so as well. Had it not been for the written ministry, many of us would not be saved today. Moreover, our witness would be much less effective were we without literature to pass on to others and to glean from for our own soul's welfare.

Those who are in the Christian bookstore field know they must operate their stores on a business-like basis, learn all they can about modern merchandising methods, and take every opportunity to introduce and sell more Christian literature to the men and women of their community. Because books can often go where no missionary is able to go, and may be the sole means by which some will ever learn of the Saviour, enterprises which produce and sell them should be regarded as institutions raised up of God for a vital ministry. This ministry needs prayer that those who are now engaged in it may be blessed and may be a blessing, and that more will be established in coming years for needy communities.

This ministry of the Christian bookseller is not only the greatest deterrent to Communism and juvenile delinquency today, but is above all the message of salvation to men and women for whom Christ died. END

Bible Book of the Month

THE PROPHECY OF MICAH

ONE OF THE MOST STALWART co-workers of the prophet Isaiah was his eloquent contemporary, Micah of Moresheth-Gath. In that critical juncture of history when Judah stood at the crossroads, faced with the challenge of resurgent idolatry under the patronage of wicked King Ahaz, and menaced by the incursions of Syrians and Samarian Israelites from the north, the very survival of the realm was brought in jeopardy by the Assyrian thundercloud from the east. The Lord God was the only true resource for the beleaguered nation, and it was the task of his faithful messengers, Isaiah and Micah, to call the kingdom to a thoroughgoing repentance, in order that his deliverance might be properly claimed and bestowed upon them in their hour of need.

The town of Moresheth, from which Micah came, was located near Gath in Northern Philistia, about 20 miles west of Jerusalem itself. His father's name is not mentioned, hence his family must have been obscure and of humble status. His prophecies show an especial awareness of the injustices meted out to the peasant population by the oppressive nobility, who were able to exploit the lower classes with impunity. His range of interest was perhaps more limited than Isaiah's, for we find in his writings very little reference to international politics, except for one chapter (6) in which he appeals to the rapidly declining northern kingdom of Israel to repent and turn back to God before the final blow of judgment descends upon it. His actual preaching ministry may have covered a much wider scope, for all we know, but the brief summaries of his spoken messages collected in the seven chapters of his written prophecy are all we have to go on.

GOD'S SENTENCE OF DOOM

1. (1:1-7) Jehovah is at hand to inflict judgment on both idolatrous kingdoms, Israel and Judah. He has spoken his sentence of doom from the very temple in Jerusalem where his holiness has been flouted. He will shake the 12 Tribes as with a devastating earthquake, and will shortly make Samaria into a heap of ruins. The images of the false gods with whom she committed spiritual adultery shall be smashed to pieces. (This was fulfilled in 722 B. C., when the Assyrians stormed and destroyed Samaria after a long and stubborn siege.)

2. (1:8-16) Lamentation over the Impending Desolation. With deep and earnest compassion, the prophet bemoans the devastation which is to overtake his guilty countrymen in the coming invasion of the Assyrian Sennacherib (which took place in 701 B. C.). The invader would advance to the gate of Jerusalem (but no farther, for Sennacherib was never able effectively to lay siege to the capital, even though he overcame all the other walled cities of Judah). Beholding in a prophetic vision the devastation meted out to Gath and Lachish and the other larger cities by the irresistible Assyrians, Micah bewails most dolefully the woes they are going to endure. As he presents these scenes to the mind's eye of his hearers, he draws a sinister significance from the root meaning of several of the names themselves. For example, Beth-le-aphrah near Jerusalem contains the root for "dust" ('aphar), in which the anguished mourner must roll himself in his grief. The root of the name Achzib (v. 14) is *chazab*, "to deceive"; therefore the idol-houses of this city shall prove a baneful deceit and disappointment to those who have trusted in them. Lachish (v. 13), incidentally, is stated in II Kings 18:14 to have been the first city of Judah after the death of Solomon ever to receive idol worship into its midst.

THE CAUSE OF DOOM

1. Condemnation of the Idle Rich (Chap. 2). The unscrupulous landholders who defraud the poor of their hereditary farms will some day lose all their own landed possessions to the marauding Assyrians and be stripped of their wealth. In their present arrogance they reject all correction from God through his prophets (translate v. 6: "Let those prophesy who will not prophesy of these things, for reproaches—i. e., the reproaches of God's true prophets—are incessant"). In v. 7 Micah asks God if his spirit is straitened (i. e., is his patience short?), or are these wicked doings from him. God answers that his revealed Word brings benefit to the upright who heed them, but alas! His own covenant people have risen up against him and prey upon their brethren like highway robbers. Heartlessly they foreclose the mortgages of widows and sell poor debtors into slavery, thus besmirching the glory of the God who estab-

lished Israel as a free nation in the Land of Promise. Ignoring his word they look to the liquor bottle for all their inspiration (2:11). But all the true believers in Israel shall be regathered in the land after the Babylonian Captivity is over, led out of their shattered prison-wall by their Divine King, their Shepherd who will conduct them like a flock of Bozrah sheep to their fold.

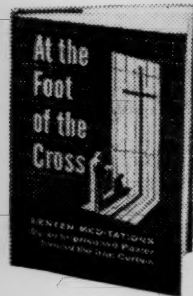
2. Condemnation of the Ruling Classes (3:1-4). The governmental officials and magistrates, charged with upholding the law, like bloodthirsty cannibals devour their own countrymen by their heartless exploitation of them. When the evil day of national peril comes upon them, the government will look in vain to God for deliverance.

3. Condemnation of the Corrupt State-Church (3:5-12). Though charged with the responsibility of faithfully preaching God's Word, the prophets proclaim a false security for the nation, but viciously attack those who will not fatten their pocketbooks. When the evil day comes upon them, they will find themselves without any message from God to declare to the people, but only black despair. But the Bible-believing prophets like Micah himself have an empowerment from God (3:8) to proclaim the truth of Jehovah's holy wrath upon a nation that ignores him. The terms of this message (3:9-12) are: (a) both government and hierarchy are guilty of perverting justice, perpetrating judicial murder, and staining their hands with bribery and corruption; (b) the clergy falsely proclaim the favor of God while they prostitute their holy office for hire and lead their people into disobedience of Scripture. (c) Therefore God will uphold his moral law by punishing these apostates who suppose he will never allow the holy city to be taken; it will some day be utterly laid waste by hordes of invaders (the Chaldeans under Nebuchadnezzar). From Jeremiah 26:19 we learn that this fiery sermon of Micah produced a powerful impression on Judah and led them to a temporary mood of repentance. It is most significant that even to the present day Mt. Zion (as contrasted with the Temple precinct of Mt. Moriah) has remained neglected and covered with trees and scrub, even as 3:12 predicts.

ULTIMATE TRIUMPH OF GOD'S GRACE

1. The Victory of the Kingdom of God in the Church-Age and the Millennium (4:1-5). God's Kingdom will become supreme over all earthly kingdoms, and even the Gentiles shall look to Zion as the place of true revelation and divine

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authority, yielding to that Messiah who will judge the whole world and teach it the ways of peace. He will usher in a new age in which all shall dwell in peace and secure possession of his own property (in a capitalistic society, therefore). Note that God granted to Isaiah (2:2-4) this same blessed assurance for this same generation.

2. Those who will Share in this Kingdom Blessing (4:6-8): the weak and despised of this world who are faithful to God. God will make them a mighty, conquering force who will win the world with their message and who will as a tower of the Lord's flock constitute the glorious latter-day Kingdom of God.

3. When this Victory will Come: after the necessary conditions have been fulfilled (4:9-13). For the present there can be no deliverance for the people without a God-fearing government, but only the judgment of exile to Babylon (which is here mentioned by name, a century and a half in advance of the fulfillment). But later God will bring them back to their land in the last days and a converted and believing Israel will gloriously triumph over all heathen foes. Those hostile nations that now (like the Edomites, Ammonites, Moabites and Philistines) maliciously oppose Zion will be wiped out and forgotten (as came to pass in subsequent history).

4. The Victor Himself: a Divine-Human Messiah (5:1-15). The last human king or "judge" of the Davidic dynasty (Zedekiah) will be smitten in the siege of Jerusalem, but the Messianic David will be born in the humble town of Bethlehem (the prediction that directed the Magi to the infant Jesus), even though he will at the same time be the pre-existent God who has ever come forth to reveal himself to the faithful and deliver them. Israel will be given over to Gentile oppression until he comes, born of a traveling woman; then Christ's brethren (by the adoption of faith) will return (i. e., by repentance join themselves in faith) to the true believers of national Israel—an implied prediction of Gentile converts who are going to be welcomed into the household of faith. As King of the Jews this Messiah will guard his flock and feed them as they spread the glory of Jehovah to the ends of the earth (fulfilling the Great Commission). Chapter 5:5ff. refers in the first instance to the stalwart leaders (of the Maccabean family) whom the Lord will raise up to deliver Israel from the "Assyrian" of later times (i. e., the Syrian Greeks under Antiochus Epiphanes), and in the second in- (Cont'd on page 38)

EUTYCHUS and his kin

VERDICT IN ECCLESIAN

Please ask your readers to be patient. It may be several weeks before those who have completed the first lesson in Ecclesian will receive their papers. I am still correcting the first one, where there is some confusion with Pennsylvania Dutch.

In the meantime, I am enclosing a supplementary exercise for advanced students. This remarkable document is the written verdict of a jury. The foreman happened to be an Ecclesiast with a strong background of committee work.

Translate from the Ecclesian:

Our community experience of common obligation in the preparation of a verdict has been profoundly enriched by a stimulating diversity of viewpoint. The values of the course of action urged by the prosecution have been shared with us by several of our number, while the problems inhering in such a procedure have been called to our attention by other members of our group. An arid conceptualism of formulation would have most divisive consequences, even endangering the unanimity of our response. However, only the fullest facing of the issues can remove the schismatic, not to say fissiparous, potential of dormant misunderstandings. In the dynamic situation of this confrontal, we of the jury became gradually aware of the emergence of a totally new factor. We found that we were bound together in the context of a full engagement with respect to our differences, and this context provided a fresh setting for our common appraisal of these problems. This climate of opinion, this atmosphere of togetherness, has proved decisive in the attainment of full unanimity in the presentation of our verdict. Since in his very innocence the defendant is guilty, and since we acknowledge our solidarity with him in this existential predicament, our verdict is that the defendant is guilty of innocence and therefore innocent of guilt. As implicated in this crime we recommend extreme clemency: sentence him, your honor, to life.

EUTYCHUS

FISHING WITHOUT BAIT

While reading D. W. Baker's "Did Jesus Use Bait?" (Jan. 6 issue) I could not help smiling as I thought of fisher-

men trying to angle without bait. Does Mr. Baker also object to the fishers of men using hooks? Serious-minded Christians should think twice before turning over the ministry of healing to the Catholics and Christian Scientists and let them reap the converts. . . . Of course we need more power in our preaching, but while we are seeking it, let us use all fruitful methods to save men. Assembly of God Church PAUL B. HOFF Shawano, Wis.

GOLDEN CALF, PAPER SCRIP

Your seeming worship of gold as the only basis of money is as silly as the golden calf Aaron provided for silly Israelites. On the basis of your editorial our coins should have "In Gold We Trust" . . . Monmouth, Ill. O. L. WILLSON

Although excellent on the moral implications of inflation, when it comes to the economic causes the article is confused and misleading. . . . What is a rise in prices if it isn't a decline in the value of the dollar? The two are one and the same thing. If a rising price level isn't inflation, then what is? . . .

Marion College
Marion, Ind.

ALLEN BOWMAN
Dean

I am not in favor of inflation; its evils are spelled out very well in the editorial. I am . . . objecting to the naive assumption that the gold standard is the answer. . . . If we had not abandoned the gold standard or made some other provision for the expansion of money and credit, our economy would have long ago ground to a halt; in other words, deflation would have resulted, and that is just as great an evil. . . .

ROBERT W. ECKARDT
Eastlake Orthodox Presbyterian Church
Wilmington, Del.

I must criticize . . . its unfair treatment of politicians and . . . its faulty economic reasoning. . . .

You have . . . taken one group of men out of society and inferred that they run our society by themselves. . . . Our government is still a Republic; . . . no matter what pressure groups may exert undue influence in it, these representatives . . . are elected . . . and are governing for the people. Since we still vote (no mat-

ter how little it may mean in the face of power wielded by various pressure groups) the whole people determine our governing organization, not just a group of "politicians". . . . Hence . . . we all are responsible for conditions in which we find ourselves.

My second criticism has to do with your cure for inflation . . . a return to determining the money supply on a basis of the quantity of gold held in the country. You seem to think that use of such a convention . . . is an alternative to human control over the money supply. . . . The gold stock flow as a device is by no means a self-regulating means of control over the economic system. . . . The theory is that the flow of gold into a country increases the money supply and leads to price rises and deflation. This . . . has validity; however . . . conditions . . . in the American economy . . . render a free floating gold supply as a means of promoting stabilized prosperity by itself inadequate. . . . Most economists agree that control of the money supply by men has certainly helped to pull us out of depression and to maintain a prosperous economy. . . . Princeton University RICHARD E. CARLS
Princeton, N. J.

A copy of your editorials "Inflation and the Breakdown of Trust" and "Technicality A Vicious Device for Outwitting the Law" should go to every Senator and Congressman in Washington, and to every Governor, Mayor and Judge in the land. . . . FARIS D. WHITESSELL
Northern Baptist Theological Seminary
Chicago, Ill.

Your editorial . . . reveals an exceptional degree of economic insight concerning the intricate nature of money and credit. It is a brilliant analysis of the ultimate effects of the government practice of debasing our currency. . . . Grove City College HANS F. SENNHOLZ
Grove City, Pa. Economics Dept.

I have not read a better analysis on the subject of inflation. . . . I shall never forget the reprehensible act of our government at the instance of Franklin Roosevelt in debasing our currency by the abandonment of the gold standard. It was

nothing more than legalized thievery, for it robbed many of our citizens of a great part of their savings and transferred to others who had not earned it the fruit of another's labor and thrift. How many times I have heard people say in recent years, "I might as well go ahead and spend what I have because it looks like money won't be worth anything anyhow."

H. HORACE HULL
Continental Investment Corp.
Memphis, Tenn.

Overwhelmed as we are by all the balderdash written and spoken on the subject of inflation, it was a rewarding experience to read your cogent editorial. . . . In truth, it was a refreshing experience to read such a well-written piece which tersely viewed inflation in its historical perspective, gently debunked the word-mongering of the uninformed, put inflation in its proper place as "primarily a moral problem" involving elements of "lying, coveting and stealing," and bringing into sharp focus the simple truth that the "cause is the increase in the quantity of money and credit" and hence "government must be held strictly accountable for inflation, because government, and government only, is responsible for the money supply. . . ."

GEORGE H. CLESS JR.
Christian Economics Managing Editor
New York City

Please permit me to express my appreciation for your vigorous editorials on inflation and outwitting the law. . . . Your courage and clear thinking are both admirable. . . .

RALPH EARLE
Nazarene Theological Seminary
Kansas City, Mo.

I was delighted. . . . Labor is blaming business for high prices and business is blaming labor because high wages increase cost and thus force up prices, but neither of them seem willing to admit that the real cause of inflation is an increase in the money supply and credit expansion. Both result from government action which your editorial made clear. . . .

There is a moral problem involved in inflation and, therefore, a paper like yours is obligated to speak against it. Inflation appeals to men's greed by promising them something for nothing. In the end it gives them nothing for something!

The recently announced policy of our administration to resort to more inflation means that our nation is sliding down a broad path to destruction. Thanks for

your warning, but I fear that it will fall upon deaf ears. Most people will prefer "riotous living" hoping to escape the disastrous consequences which no nation in history has ever avoided. . . .

IRVING E. HOWARD
Christian Freedom Foundation
New York City

May I express my hearty approval of the editorial in your January sixth issue, "Inflation and the Breakdown of Trust." It is an admirable analysis, both of the economic and moral aspects of inflation, and you are to be congratulated on your courage. . . .

Newsweek
New York City

HENRY HAZLITT

MORE ON THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Dr. Douglass' critics confuse me. They disbelieve our Lord's virgin birth. Yet it is my impression that most churches endorse the Apostles' Creed. What happens when their congregation recites that creed and reaches the phrase "born of the virgin Mary"? May I assume that the pastor remains silent, rather than affirm what he believes to be untrue? What about the congregation? Do they repeat it thoughtlessly or is there a moment of silence for a dead tenet?

Hyattsville, Md. JOHN DE VRIES

Is it not true that the Lord himself spoke of this matter in Matthew 22:42-45?
Chimayo, New Mex. JIMMY DECKER

THE GOSPEL ON RADIO

The report on "Evangelical Broadcasting Outlook" (Jan. 6 issue) will be encouraging to those who, like myself, frequently dial in vain to find a religious broadcast worthy of the Christian Gospel. The airways are filled with what purport to be "evangelical broadcasting programs." Of course, there are a few notable exceptions, but most of them are unholy compounds of jazz, hillbilly music, pleas for money "to keep us on the air," and rambling harangues by countless "radio pastors." Word that the going is getting tougher for these exhibitionist cowboys is very good news for which some of us have been hoping for a long time. . . .

DONALD E. WALDEN
The Methodist Church,
Deland, Ill.

CHRISTIANITY TODAY (Jan. 6 issue) quoted a "spot check" conducted by *United Evangelical Action* as follows: "In Columbus, Ohio, evangelical paid broadcasts were eliminated because of

pressures by the Council of Churches which holds that 'a disproportionate amount of time in religious broadcasting is given to that type of commercial programming which does not reflect the theology or the worship practises of the main body of the American people.'"

That "spot check" contains two major errors of fact.

First, the portion of the above quotation in single quotes was a conclusion arrived at by a committee of the Ohio Council of Churches after that body had conducted a state-wide survey. . . . The Columbus Area Council of Churches had no part in arriving at this conclusion.

Second, "evangelical paid broadcasts" have not been eliminated in Columbus. There has been no such influence exerted by the Columbus Area Council of Churches. One station did change its policy with regard to the sale of commercial religious time, but this was a matter of station policy and not because of pressure exerted by the council.

I was a member of the sub-committee of the Central Committee on Public Relations of the Ohio Council of Churches which conducted the survey. . . . We were . . . concerned with programs conducted by people whose only claim to such time was the fact that they had money to purchase it. . . . Without doubt even Dr. James DeForest Murch would agree that commercial time should not be made available for religious "quacks" and charlatans any more than . . . for medical "quacks" . . . T. C. WHITEHOUSE
Third Avenue Methodist Church
Columbus, Ohio

You have been misinformed . . . about the Council of Churches here in Columbus . . . and their attitude regarding the paid religious broadcasting of fundamental folks. . . . We have been broadcasting here in the city for seven years and there has never been any threat whatsoever regarding our broadcasting. . . . Dr. Montgomery . . . serves in charge of the broadcasting commission of the Council of Churches. . . . We have had the privilege of serving on that committee. . . . Everything that he has done has been that of a most generous spirit, impartial as it could possibly be. . . .

HAROLD W. SCOTT
Indianola Church of Christ
Columbus, Ohio

ECUMENICAL TENSIONS

Your editorial "Theology, Evangelism, Ecumenism" (Jan. 20 issue) is the most recent example of your typical lukewarmness. . . . The ACCC is dismissed with

calculated indifference to . . . its radio and audio film commission, its commission on chaplains, its anti-Communist rallies and its protest against an ambassador to the Vatican. . . . *The Free Press* is characterized as a "semi-private" paper. . . . The paper is published by "The Committee for True Presbyterianism" which includes several ministers. That sounds more like a "ward" than "semi-private". . . . As for the Bible Presbyterians . . . a dissident group . . . did withdraw. The majority . . . are affiliated with the ACCC through the Bible Presbyterian Church Association, and the latest ACCC statistics set this forth very clearly. . . . ROBERT H. DUVAL
Bible Presbyterian Church
West Chester, Pa.

Billy Graham is depicted as a superman . . . notwithstanding his blatant compromise with the enemies of Christ. . . .

If the *Christian Beacon* is a smear sheet, then . . . much of the Bible must be classified as smear sheets also. . . . Pitman, N. J. JOHN W. FULTON

On page 38 of the recent issue of *CHRISTIANITY TODAY* (Jan. 20) you carried an ad about one of Dr. Machen's books. This of course is very good, for Dr. Machen was a great man of God, and a real contender for the Historic Christian Faith. Yet strangely . . . on page 23 . . . you deliberately smear one of Dr. Machen's most outstanding students, and one of America's greatest contenders for the faith, Dr. Carl McIntire. This indicates to me that you are not consistent. . . . You pretend to be a fundamentalist but you are not. Therefore you are in my opinion, either a hypocrite, a coward, or both. . . . I think you are also an outspoken liar. . . . If you are looking for a good fight—why not pick on some of the Modernist bums. . . . Englewood, Colo. BOB LE ROY

You state: "The *Christian Beacon* was not simply an ACCC house organ; it became a religious smear sheet in the worst traditions of yellow journalism."

No one with a sense of decency can deny the latter part of this statement and it is a matter of great embarrassment to us who have become identified . . . simply because we are members of ACCC churches. However, I should appreciate the opportunity of correcting the former portion. . . . Neither the *Beacon* nor any other publication was ever an official house organ. . . . The *Beacon* appeared to be such (and was *de facto*) and this was the fault of both Carl McIntire who

wanted this and the other officers who allowed it. . . . This gave McIntire a tool to make the ACCC exactly what he wanted. In addition to the official ACCC statements (usually not too objectionable) he pushed personal hobbies and they appeared to be ACCC dogma. . . .

But the Holy Spirit hasn't forsaken even the ACCC and we have been blessed in spite of some of us. . . . Perhaps we can make some headway if you don't blame us for any more than we actually deserve — and God knows that there is plenty of that!
Grand Rapids, Mich. ACCC MEMBER

PERSPECTIVE ON ECUMENISM

Particularly valuable are the four articles relative to the Greek Orthodox Church. I'm . . . grateful for the well-rounded, or at least varied, approach to the subject. . . . WALDRON SCOTT III
The Navigators
Washington, D. C.

Episcopal Church missionaries went into Greece in 1829 and 1839 and established schools in Athens, notably the girls'

school. I refer to the Rev. and Mrs. John R. Hill, and Mrs. Solomon Bingham. These missionaries did not attempt to start a "new" church in Greece, but worked with and for the old Greek Orthodox Church of the country. . . . Atlanta, Ga. THOM WILLIAMSON

Dr. Paul Woolley offers ambitious . . . summaries of . . . various Eastern theologians, mixing in together Church Fathers and heretics, and laying all at the doors of the Holy Orthodox Churches. The implication is that these Churches have departed from Apostolic Faith. Let us remember the difference between the catholic consent of the Church (Orthodoxy calls it "sobornost") and the privately held opinions of individuals. . . . St. Luke's Church RICHARD C. CHAPIN
Eddystone, Pa.

The article "Orthodox Agony in the World Council" leaves me with the desire to see all churches in 'agony' until the 235 divisions of our Christendom find some firmer, wider basis for unity. Winnipeg, Canada A. R. CRAGG

Winona Lake School of Theology

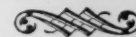
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CAN SAN FRANCISCO BE REACHED?

Robert W. Ross and Sherwood E. Wirt

"The gayest, lightest-hearted city of the Western continent." So Will Irwin once characterized San Francisco; and so it is: a city whose magic is inescapable. Chinatown, the cable cars, Fishermen's Wharf, the Embarcadero, the bridges, the Cliff House, Golden Gate Park, Civic Center, Union Square—where else than in San Francisco?

From the days when the first prospects sailed into her matchless harbor, San Francisco has attracted millions of visitors by her charm. To American troops stationed far across the Pacific in two World Wars, the very name "San Francisco" conjured up visions of all that seemed worth staying alive for. Joseph Henry Jackson speaks of "My San Francisco" as "a great and greatly loved city" whose "first response is always 'Yes!'" (*My San Francisco*, Crowell Publishing Co., 1953).

Diamond in a Turquoise Setting

The city's secret is mysterious. Part of her quaintness is due, of course, to the unique geographical location on the rugged tip of the peninsula. Seen from the air, she appears a glistening spiderweb, with her network of bridges and the numberless Mediterranean-type houses trimming the hills like beads on a string. Yet the true source of San Francisco's magic lies not with her setting but with her people. Western, cosmopolitan, easy-going, pleasure-loving and hospitable, they have given her the reputation of "the city that knows how." A never-ending procession of conventions, sports shows, stock shows and commercial exhibits has enhanced her fame as the place to go in the twentieth century. Those seeking lighter entertainment have no trouble finding it amid the nostalgic memories of the Barbary Coast.

Yes, a wonderful city, this diamond in a turquoise setting; yet there is an air about her that troubles many thoughtful people. It is not that she is friendly to the point of brashness, or aggressive to the point of cockiness. Any western city has these characteristics. What is distressing about San Francisco is that in her swagger she seems to have shaken off God. It is easy to sin in San Francisco, but it is not so easy to get rid of one's sins. The fact that there is a respectable quota of churches, ecclesiastical institutions and clergymen within her limits makes no difference; they are politely ignored, for they are not in on the secret. One of the brighter stars in the church's firmament, Francis of Assisi, gave his name to the city, and his followers built a mission on the site, but such facts are inconsiderable today.

If there is any city in the United States that is a candidate for revival, that city is San Francisco. It would be hard to find in any American metropolis such a spiritual vacuum. The evangelical Christian community is microscopic amidst the population of 800,000. More significant is the church's sense of isolation, for the Christians of San Francisco know full well that they do not have the ear of the community. Among the Protestant clergy there has yet to emerge a single strong, prophetic voice. Nineveh had her Jonah, and Florence had her Savonarola, but San Francisco has her restaurants. The Christian people of San Francisco by themselves are an isolated pocket, struggling sometimes valiantly, sometimes in deep discouragement, against heavy odds. They draw for strength on the suburban cities fringing the bay, where the church life is more vigorous. Yet there is no city in the Bay Area which has been able to overcome the deadly fall-out from "the city that knows how," and the Bay Area has been properly classified as "the graveyard of evangelism."

History Tells Why

We can find some of the reasons for this perplexing situation in history. It was not the Franciscan friars who built San Francisco; it was the forty-niners. The gold-crazed men and women who fought, gambled and drank their way west made San Francisco their headquarters. The lawlessness and crime that raged unchecked through the city's streets in the decades that followed have never been equalled in the memory of modern man in times of peace. The Kasbah of Algiers, the Shanghai waterfront, the back streets of Constantinople were as tot-lots compared to San Francisco in the days of the vigilantes.

In 1906, when earthquake and fire left the city devastated, the pulpits over the land proclaimed that a just God was now giving San Francisco the Sodom-and-Gomorrah treatment she so richly deserved. The stricken natives, not being theologically-minded to begin with, showed no humiliation whatever. There (Cont'd on page 33)

Honored in Death



CHAPLAIN PETER BOL

On to a greater reward

The evening of February 1, Lieutenant Commander Peter Bol cancelled commercial airline reservations for a flight from California to Washington, where he was to receive the "Naval Chaplain of the Year" award from the Reserve Officers Association.

Instead he boarded a Military Air Transport Service plane heading east. The plane collided with another military aircraft over Norwalk, California, killing 48 persons. Chaplain Bol was among the victims.

Only days before, he had told CHRISTIANITY TODAY of his 15-month tour as the first Protestant chaplain ever assigned to the Antarctic.

"When men faced known hazards or dangers," he said, "they responded in greater numbers and with greater interest and participation. Piety was evident among all of the men when we conducted memorial services. Life was valued more than normally in typical military operations."

The chaplain said the lowest recorded temperature he experienced in Little America was 78 degrees below zero.

"Our work was unique in some aspects," he said, "but for the most part it was merely the extension of the church to serve even men isolated in a remote region."

Bol was a minister of the Reformed Church in America and a native of Grand Haven, Michigan. He is survived by his wife and a young son. He entered the chaplaincy in 1945.

Theological Fund

An International Missionary Council committee of 24 members is expected to meet by summer to plan distribution of a \$4,000,000 theological education fund.

The fund got its start with a grant of \$2,000,000, unprecedented in the history of Christian missions, from *John D. Rockefeller, Jr.* The amount is to be matched by gifts during the next five years from eight United States missions boards to aid theological schools in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Announcement of the fund's beginning was made at the IMC Assembly at Ghana, where the committee of 24 was established. Some delegates voiced concern over American predominance and dominance because 12 committee members are Americans.

Dr. Charles W. Ranson of London and New York was elected executive director of the fund. Among those on the committee are *Dr. Henry P. Van Dusen*, president of Union Theological Seminary, and *Dr. John A. Mackay*, president of Princeton Theological Seminary.

Both Presidents Mackay and Van Dusen denied that there was any intention to give Americans the upper hand in supervising the distribution of the money. Actual administration of the Rockefeller grant is handled by Sealantic Fund, Inc.

Was apprehension over aggressive American participation due to earlier ecumenical emphasis on national leadership in missions which seemed now to be violated, or to fear of ultimate American control of thought and action through the maneuvering of large gifts and theological education? Some took this view, but President Mackay was inclined to a third view—that it is simply a reflection of anti-American sentiment inherited from the drift of world political sentiment over wide sections of the globe.

President Van Dusen acknowledged that there was some feeling among some delegates that the Americans had "planned it that way."

"Of course there was no such plan," said Van Dusen. "Here you are dealing with the subtleties of human psychology."

Some 20 theological schools will receive direct grants from the fund and another 160 will receive textbook aid.

The eight boards which are to match the \$2,000,000 put up by Rockefeller are: the Division of World Missions and the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church; the Board of Foreign Mis-

PEOPLE: WORDS AND EVENTS

Marks Anniversary — *Dr. Richard S. Beal* completes his 40th year as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Tucson, Arizona, this month.

"Breach" Condemned — *Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher*, Archbishop of Canterbury, condemned artificial insemination by a donor other than the husband as a "breach of marriage."

Undoubtedly Spirited — The Indiana University Alumni Club of Los Angeles held its first 1958 meeting in the Brown Bottle of the Joseph Schlitz Brewing Co.

Bishop Consecrated — *The Rt. Rev. Jose Guadalupe* was elevated to bishop in the first service of consecration for a Protestant Episcopal Bishop ever conducted in Mexico.

Advice to Pastors — To avoid a nervous breakdown, enlist the aid of your wife. That is what a Denver psychiatrist, *Dr. Bradford Murphey*, told members of the city's ministerial alliance. "She knows more about you than you do, and she knows it sooner," said Murphey.

Digest — *Dr. Roland Q. Leavell*, President of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, was reported recovering from a cerebral thrombosis. . . . Wheaton College will offer a Summer Institute of Missions for the second consecutive year, June 21-July 18. . . . The office of the National Association of Evangelicals' Commission for World Evangelical Fellowship will be moved from Boston to Chicago April 1. . . . Theme of the 25th Brotherhood Week February 16-23 is "The Family of Man." . . . The Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tiburon, California, leased two railroad coaches for use as a Sunday School. . . . Baptist churches in 105 countries now have total memberships of 22,068,058, a gain of 1,014,165 in a year. The Churches of Christ will establish a new liberal arts college at Parkersburg, West Virginia. . . . The Wycliffe Bible Translators named their newest jungle base in Ecuador after the founder of The Navigators, *Dawson Trotman*. . . . Catholics and Jews tend to have most of their numbers in large cities, while Protestants still have the majority of their people in rural areas, a NCC study reveals.

sions of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.; the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society; the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Lutheran Church; the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (Congregational); the National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church; the United Christian Missionary Society (Disciples); and the Board of International Missions of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Film Exports Scored

Two Methodist groups meeting at Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania, called for more careful selection of American films sent overseas.

Certain film exports now carry "a detrimental influence on young people and family life" and give a false picture of American standards, according to resolutions adopted by the Methodist Board of Missions and the Methodist Woman's Division of Christian Service.

Both organizations urged more pictures which would "portray better aspects of family life and higher standards of morality."

The annual meeting of the Board of Missions commissioned 60 new missionaries. A report stated that Methodists gave a record \$25,779,279 in 1957 for the denomination's home and overseas missionary work. There are in the United States some 9,000,000 Methodists.

Catholics Balking?

United States Roman Catholics came in for wrist-slaps from two members of their hierarchy.

Bishop John J. Wright of Worcester, Massachusetts, said there is "indifference to the Pope's social teachings" whenever they run counter to "personal, partisan or national prejudices."

Wright asserted that the American Catholic laity has "lagged far behind" the Holy See in recognizing the need for "international human community" and its "worldwide organization."

In Minneapolis, *Auxiliary Bishop-elect Leonard P. Cowley* of St. Paul said Roman Catholic laymen are not "thinking with the Church enough."

Catholic young men "can't see why they can't be best men in Protestant

weddings, and people complain because certain movies are banned to them. They just aren't thinking with the church," he said.

"This doesn't mean being submissive in all matters," Crowley added, "but it does mean submission when official Church doctrine is involved."

Editors Act

Some 86 editors attending the 10th annual Evangelical Press Association convention in Washington moved to arrest the current rash of obscene literature.

Delegates resolved to "inform" readers of their 110 member publications and to suggest "proper action" that may be taken against pornography at local levels.

Mel Larson, editor of the *Evangelical Beacon* and *Evangelist*, was elected president of EPA.

The association cited *Moody Monthly* as the outstanding evangelical periodical of the year.

As a special project for 1958, EPA voted to support missionary literature through a campaign to alert the reading public of the needs of such literature and its importance.

Building Gains

The campus of the proposed Alaska Methodist College in Anchorage will be dedicated during the week of June 29. The cost of the first church-related, four-year liberal arts college in Alaska is estimated at \$5,000,000. . . .

The Baptist Sunday School Board plans the early construction of a \$4,000,000 building, two blocks long, to house its Nashville, Tennessee, operations departments. . . .

The Moody Foundation granted the First Methodist Church of Galveston, Texas, \$2,500,000 to erect a new building. The church eventually is to receive one-fourth of the estate of the late Mrs. Libbie Shearn Moody, wife of the late W. L. Moody, Jr., Galveston financier. . . .

Construction of the proposed \$1,550,000 Bethel Methodist Home for the Aged began in Ossining, New York. . . . Work on another building for the aged, this one a \$550,000 structure in Denver to be operated by the City's Association of Christian Churches, also was to get underway this month. . . . The Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Florida plans a \$500,000 expansion program.

SCIENTIFIC POWER AND CHRISTIAN HESITANCY

"Religion Faces the Atomic Age." This was the title of a conference called Feb. 2 and 3 by the University of Chicago through its Federated Theological Faculty to "consider comprehensively how the spiritual resources of this country must be mobilized to save us." It was further stated that though we must meet the Soviet scientific challenge, science "can only offer us a protracted and exhausting armament race. Victory and survival will only come through a deeper understanding of the laws that govern the hearts and minds of men and the practical application of these laws in our national life and our international relations."

Facing the Right Fears

For this purpose an outstanding array of speakers was gathered from the fields of religion, education, and business. The initial topic considered was "Facing the Fears of the Atomic Age." Dean of the Federated Theological Faculty, Jerald C. Brauer, explained that it was felt best to build what should follow in the conference upon the "personality sciences."

Delegates were told bluntly that one of America's greatest failings today is that she lacks a proper fear of the right things. Dr. Gardiner Murphy, Director of Research of the Menninger Foundation, stated that the first psychological problem is "why apathy, hopelessness, irresponsibility, evasion, business-as-usual, or the most pathetic and trivial toying with momentary escapes or palliatives, should dominate the thought of the Western world." He defended certain "rational fears" in an "age of potential devastation," such as fears of smugness, hypocrisy, self-deception, and aimlessness.

Dr. Seward Hiltner, Professor of Pastoral Theology of the Federated Theological Faculty, pronounced our situation "unprecedentedly fearsome" and indicated paralysis in the face of enormity as one reason for our not facing up to the basic fear. "We are like Mickey Mouse—who finds some magic coming to his aid in disposing of the giant." But if we continue this, "our civilization will perish—not as a society of brave men who tried their best and lost, but as mice, as Mickey Mice whose magic powers failed to appear on schedule."

The Conflict of Faiths

The conference next addressed itself to the problem of Communism—"Two Faiths in Conflict." Dr. Alexander Miller, Associate Professor of Religion at Stanford University, warned against "the ora-

torial commonplace that the issue hinges on Communist *atheism* and *materialism*. . . . The trouble with Communism is not so much that it is godless, but that it . . . exalts a false god into the place of God. . . . Marxism is one modern form of the ancient natural religion . . . in which the natural powers and dynamisms on which man's life depends are deified. . . ." Prof. Miller also cautioned against the "deadly danger" of identifying our enemy with antichrist, "partly because no human being and no human movement achieves such majesty of evil, and partly because it implies too much virtue in ourselves."

Also speaking on the Christianity-Communism conflict was John Nuveen, president of a Chicago investment firm and former administrator of economic aid in Greece. The uncommitted nations will ultimately "tip the scales one way or the other" in the present world struggle, he said, by way of calling for an increase in economic aid to these countries. But at the same time he warned that foreign aid to a country is "interpreted as an endorsement of the government in power and helps to keep it in power. If it is a good government and bent upon the establishment of the free institutions which have been inspired by Christian principles, then our aid serves the cause of Christianity," but if otherwise, we are building up explosive pressures that can be utilized by the Communists.

After a session on public education, Dean Brauer spoke of problems in educating ministers for the atomic age, noting that in this time of great need many men are leaving the ministry. He pleaded for a rigorous search "in the past and present resources of Christian faith for new goals, methods, and directions."

Religion and Materialism

Next considered was religion's role in the world of business. Edward C. Logelin, vice-president of United States Steel Corporation, spoke of ways in which religion can help the businessman, while Sears Roebuck Vice-President James C. Worthy pointed out dangers inherent in the secularization of business morality. Blame for this, said Worthy, former Assistant Secretary of Commerce, is to be laid more at the feet of the preachers and theologians "who have failed to make explicit the relevance of religious faith to business practice." One result is the concept of self-interest as the generally accepted theory of business motivation. "Communists and socialists play up the symbols of human welfare but

neglect, and often violate, the reality! The American business system emphasizes the symbols of self-interest, but actually operates with substantial concern for human values."

Rescuing Religious Values

The final session, at the Palmer House, addressed itself to the general theme of the conference, religion in the atomic age. Dean Brauer denounced the misuse of religion simply to guarantee our safety. Rather it should provide motivation for seeking out God's will in this world. *Lawrence A. Kimpton*, Chancellor of the University of Chicago, confessed that "we are sore afraid, and we know not where to turn. . . . The purpose of the conference we are concluding this evening is to suggest that we turn to the great resources of our religion."

Distinguished chemistry professor *Harold C. Urey* noted that the battle between science and religion saw the former the complete victor. This revolution of the past century is permanent, he averred, and past customs and beliefs will not return. Through science man today "possesses the most magnificent view of a marvelous universe that he has ever had. Religions have attempted to do this in the past and their success has been anything but equal to that of modern science in this field." However, Prof. Urey confessed that science tends to lead to a purely materialistic view of life, offering little to support a belief in the dignity of man; in this field religion has always made its great contribution. Today religion is challenged to maintain the old values, i.e. "give us a sound moral life and noble aspirations."

Giving the concluding address in stirring fashion was *Charles P. Taft*, Cincinnati mayor and former president of the National Council of Churches. Concerning the cold war, he urged the clergy "to utilize all the psychological insight expressed in our ideal of the democratic process to proceed in ways that may get our opponents to move." Secondly, he continued, the same means are to be used to persuade our own people to move. Giving mankind a consciousness and belief in values will be a long struggle and we must exercise much patience. The problem, he concluded, is the application of religion in an evil world, and ministers must help through continued counsel and guidance in preaching and teaching.

Christian Ambiguity

The Federated Theological Faculty is to be commended for recognizing the danger of the hour and for seeking solu-

tion in the area of spiritual principles. Yet it would be a bold spirit who would claim that the solution or solutions had been found through this "comprehensive" consideration of "how the spiritual resources of this country must be mobilized to save us." Indeed, it seemed that the spirit of tentativeness stalked the conference. Chancellor Kimpton declared, "We have not sought the moral and spiritual answers nor do we have them in our time of great need." Dr. Murphy counseled an active program against the threats of today but did not suggest its content, leaving his listeners with hope in a slowly maturing psychology. But would it be too slow for this age? Courage to face the danger was Dr. Hiltner's counsel, but others were left the task of charting a pathway of action. In the final session Prof. Urey simply presented the problem religion faces, as he sees it, and wished the delegates success in their search for a solution. Mr. Taft, who conceived the convention as being more in the nature of a tribute to the Federated Theological Faculty, counseled psychological insight and patience.

If one looked for a serving of theological issues in this conference on religion, barrenness was his main fare. Dr. Murphy seemed to be chiding Protestant liberalism when he referred to "Main Street Christianity being responsible for having blunted and shallowed the normal capacity for fear as well as righteous indignation against injustice." He also set himself against those liberals and humanitarians who say that the control of the atom is the only problem, forgetting the more basic problem of human nature. But then we find him employing an easy grouping of Gautama, Socrates, and Jesus, all of whom in their supreme moments grasped a point of wisdom for which Dr. Murphy was contending. Dogma, he said, in answer to a question, can be useful in disarming fears and is workable in some periods for some people, but tends to become the more precarious the longer it is held. In a similar vein Prof. Urey called for a religion unencumbered with "illogical dogmas."

Dr. Hiltner called for an inquiry into our faith, while Dean Brauer asked for a search into the Christian faith, past and present, for new goals. It is possible, he contended, for a concentration on the present to rob the student of his rich heritage and even "the very ground of faith itself." What this ground is or what elements Dr. Brauer would take from the history of the faith, he did not say. Likewise, Mr. Taft, in calling for theology and not just ethics, offered no elabora-

tion as to the kind of theology needed.

The old liberal optimism was, of course, by the nature of the occasion somewhat subdued. There was some disagreement as to whether this is actually the most dangerous period of our history. What pacifist element there was present seemed confined to the delegates. None of the speakers questioned appeared ready to propose massive resistance through nonviolent means, but rather seemed relieved that we still were able to manage a balance of power.

Neglect of the Vertical

So often the thought seemed pitched upon a horizontal plane with only the occasional breakthrough to the vertical. For example, with all that was said about fear, no mention was made of the fear of God. Again, Dr. Hiltner's proposed source for courage was in mutual understanding and acceptance, his reference to God coming almost as an afterthought.

The evolutionary hypothesis was generally accepted, Murphy and Urey assuming this, the latter, albeit, pointing out it was not proven. Dr. Urey asked for a religion "without the miraculous." He tended to view science and religion competitively, and seemed now to be asking that religion put itself on a naturalist plane along with science.

However, Mr. Taft emphasized that man is more than a machine, and moreover, is possessed of evil and perversity. This note was struck on other occasions in the conference, but there was lacking a prophetic call for repentance and conversion. Dr. *Theodore Gill*, an editor of *The Christian Century*, spoke of the need for evangelism, but a different sort from that generally seen in this country today. Mr. Taft asked for less emphasis on personal salvation and more guidance toward the "city with foundations." He did not deal with the imposing problem of making nations Christian apart from the individuals who compose them.

Most all of this would appear to reduce to one question: What place was given to Jesus Christ in this conference? So far as the writer observed, the cross was mentioned once, obliquely, the resurrection not at all, and the "second coming" once in a humorous vein. Of the living Word there was nothing. The divinity of Christ was not mentioned, but the divinity of man was more than once—perhaps not too surprising a turn in view of the fact that one of the Federated Schools is Unitarian.

Mr. Taft called for more conferences and the expression of all viewpoints for thought and discussion rather than a pre-

pared pathway to a preconceived conclusion. Many viewpoints, indeed, never found voice at this conference. Dean Brauer directed his challenge to preach the faith to both churches and synagogues. Elsewhere he quoted Augustine's exalted declaration that we are restless until we find our rest in God. Would to God the Dean had proclaimed Augustine's entrance to this rest—through Jesus Christ the risen Lord!

This special report was prepared by CHRISTIANITY TODAY's newest staff affiliate, Editorial Associate *Frank Farrell*. The Rev. Mr. Farrell, a Baptist clergyman, holds the B.A. degree from Wheaton College, B.D. from Fuller Theological Seminary, and Ph.D. from New College, Edinburgh.

New Lutheran Center

A new half-million-dollar center, the largest Lutheran facility of its kind in America, has been opened in Minneapolis by the Lutheran Welfare Society of Minnesota.

The center houses the society's staff of 51 social workers, chaplains and clerical workers and is believed to be the first office building erected by a private child welfare agency in Minnesota.

Lutheran Welfare is the official child welfare and chaplaincy agency of seven of the eight synods of the National Lutheran Council in Minnesota.

LATIN AMERICA

Crusade Highlights

Highlights of Evangelist Billy Graham's crusades in the Caribbean islands:

JAMAICA—Graham spoke at two evening rallies, climaxing two weeks of meetings led by associate evangelist Leighton Ford. Some 30,000 heard Graham the first night, another 20,000 were turned away, and thousands raised hands indicative of their desire to receive Christ as Saviour. It was the largest crowd ever assembled in Jamaican history. There were 1600 decisions the second night out of 25,000 in attendance.

PUERTO RICO—Even greater crowds turned out for the evangelist in San Juan. A Monday evening assembly of 40,000 withstood pelting rain to listen to Graham's message. The response at the invitation was described as "overwhelming."

BARBADOS—Attendances continued to skyrocket as 60,000, more than a fourth of the island's population, jammed a crusade meeting held on the grounds of a

race track. Decisions for Christ numbered 1180.

TRINIDAD — Crowds jammed another race track at Port of Spain to hear Graham say that mankind is engaged in suicide. He said that the H-bomb and earth satellites prove his point.

Junta Hailed

Venezuela's five-man ruling junta received a standing ovation at their first joint public appearance in a Roman Catholic cathedral in Caracas.

They attended a solemn memorial Mass for victims of the January revolution which overthrew the government of Dictator *Marcos Perez Jimenez*.

El Pueblo, Roman Catholic daily in Buenos Aires, praised the dictator's downfall and the restoration of Venezuela "to the community of free nations."

Worship in the Clouds

A 17-year-old son of Plymouth Brethren missionaries from Canada was one of a trio of Argentinian mountain climbers who reached the 22,539-foot top of Ojos del Salado, second highest peak in the hemisphere. (The tallest, according to the National Geographic Society, is South America's Mount Aconcagua, 22,834 feet.)

Said young Daniel Powell:

"We felt very small up there, and realized as never before the greatness of God. I carried my New Testament with me, and God's Word was certainly a source of comfort and strength in the very difficult days we had to face. During the last lap, when we had to sit down and rest after every eight or ten paces, I had wonderful times of prayer and felt the Lord was very close."

The mountain lies on the Argentina-Chile border.

—A.C.

EUROPE

Cinema Parson

The "Cinema Parson of London" observed his 76th birthday with some advice about reconciling religion in the science age.

Said the Rev. *Thomas Tiplady*, who attracted crowds at his London mission by using moving pictures as "Christ used parables":

"The scientists are revealing God to man today, the stars, the tiny atoms. Take a speck of dust and think of the immense bustling power in everything—in the ocean and the air. But ask a scientist about religion and he will say he is concerned with pure fact. People

Cullman, Barth, Pius XII

Dialogue between *Professor Karl Barth* and *Dr. O. Cullman* on Cullman's return to Basel, France, from a visit to *Pope Pius XII* at the pontiff's invitation:

"What did you tell the Pope?" asked Barth.

"The Pope told me that 'I should be very happy to be the colleague of the greatest dogmatist since *St. Thomas*,'" answered Cullman, who is professor of New Testament at the University of Basel.

To which Barth replied, "If this is the meaning of the Holy Father, I begin to believe the dogma of the infallibility of the Pope."

fear atomic power, are bewildered and do not know what lies ahead. But they ought to be reconciling the spiritual with the material—all truth is one."

Wharf Revival

In Norway, the herring arrived late. On the shore waited 30,000 fishermen with the largest fleet of fishing vessels ever assembled there.

The Home Seamen Mission saw its opportunity and arranged evening services for the idle fishermen. Evangelical workers fanned out over the dock area and made personal contacts.

The result was reported revival on at last two vessels, *Eliezer IV* and *Eliezer V*. Fishers of men had netted eternal gain for the Kingdom of God.

—T.B.

AFRICA

A First for Africa

Guarantees of human rights were the immediate concerns of 200 delegates in the first meeting of African Protestant minds, the All-Africa Church Conference. The National Christian Council of Nigeria sponsored the gathering at Ibadan.

Representatives of 21 African countries adopted a resolution urging that guarantees set forth in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights be written into "any new constitutions for existing and emergent states" on the continent.

MIDDLE EAST

Israeli Anniversary

A series of cultural events starting in April will mark Israel's tenth anniversary.

Among the highlights are a performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* near the Cave of Elijah in Haifa on June 28 and the Sea of Galilee Festival on October 1.

The Israel Government Tourist Office says tourist traffic to the country was up about 25 per cent for the last half of 1957 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

Alarm in Lebanon

A wave of anti-Christian sentiment in Egypt caused alarm in Lebanon. Authorities feared an outbreak of Christian-Moslem disturbances might result.

A debate in the Egyptian parliament described Lebanon as a "hotbed of Christian intrigue against the Arabs since the Crusades." Deputies charged Christians in Lebanon with being "instruments of Western imperialism against Arab nationalism."

The Lebanese government protested the criticism, labelling it an organized and officially-approved campaign backed by press and radio to provoke religious strife in Lebanon.

Lebanon is the only country in the Middle East which has a Christian majority. A little more than half of the nation's 1,500,000 residents are Christians. The remainder are mostly Moslems and some Jews.

INDIA

Indian Evangelicalism

Expanding vision characterizes evangelical life in India.

A concentration of evangelicals is found in Bombay State, Madhya Pradesh, and surrounding areas. The region lies geographically between the United Church of South India and the Church of North India. While groups of evangelicals exist in both these church unions, the stronger though smaller evangelistic bodies work out of the central region.

Bible schools spearhead the advance of conservative Christianity in India. Outstanding are the South India Bible Institute of World Gospel Mission at Bangarpet and the Oriental Missionary Society school at Allahabad.

Denominational missions maintain a number of other top evangelical educational institutions. Union Biblical Seminary at Yeotmal was founded 20 years ago by the Free Methodist Church. The seminary now represents a co-operative endeavor involving 16 organizations. Dr. and Mrs. Harold B. Kuhn of Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky, recently completed a term there

as guest professors at the seminary.

Said Dr. Kuhn, "The seminary is contributing to nearly all the evangelical bodies and agencies in India. It not only expresses the growing self-consciousness of mission which these agencies feel, but it is making an active contribution toward implementation of that vision through the training of young men and women of deep dedication to the cause of decisive evangelism."

Evangelicals in India are well aware of the need for cooperation. The need is largely met within the Evangelical Fellowship of India, formed out of a number of active missionary groups. I. Ben Wati is executive secretary of the World Evangelical Fellowship affiliate.

Last month EFI held its seventh annual conference on the campus of Voorhees College at Vellore, where the organization's vitality evoked this reaction from the Rev. Frederick Ferris, EFI's Overseas Secretary:

"I did not realize that you were doing such a tremendous work here in India. . . . I did not realize you had anything like this here. I had not expected it."

EFI has a membership of 979 individuals from 52 missions. Registered conference delegates numbered 271, while some meetings drew record attendance of more than a thousand. Dr. Akbar A. Haqq directed evening evangelistic services that drew 200 inquirers for salvation.

"The spirit of co-operation which I have seen in Vellore has impressed me more than anything," said a representative from the north.

"I am going back with a new vision of what it means to witness," said another.

And still another: "I woke up to the fact that the day for the church in India has come. It is our job, and we can do it, and we will."

Not organization, but fellowship, characterizes and shapes EFI. Not separation, but permeation, is her goal, that the first and foremost avowed purpose of her existence, *spiritual revival in the church*, may become a reality throughout India.

SAN FRANCISCO

(Cont'd from p. 28) may have been ashes, but there was no sackcloth. They proceeded to build a bigger, brassier city than ever, with a bigger brassier Barbary Coast. The poet Vachel Lindsay took a look at the new city, boasting its magnificent recovery at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition, and shook his head in a poem entitled, "The City That Would Not Repent" (General William

Booth and Other Poems, Macmillan, 1924, p. 8):

God loves this rebel city,
Loves foemen brisk and game.
Tho', just to please the angels,
He may send down his flame.

But no flame has come as yet. Today the new city stands before the world a gleaming masterpiece of human achievement, with all the sophistication, the loveliness, the abandon, and the superstitious paganism of ancient Athens. Now a modern-day Paul of Tarsus, the evangelist Billy Graham, is proposing to come to Nob Hill as Paul once went to Mars Hill. How will he be greeted? What will the cosmopolite San Franciscan of 1958 do with the message of Jesus Christ and the Resurrection? Can San Francisco be reached? Is it possible for the Number One Alcoholic City of the United States to experience a revival?

Only in the counsels of God are such questions to be answered. A spiritual awakening in San Francisco could be electric in its effect, for as does no other city, San Francisco speaks for the West. The birthplace of the United Nations is also the cornerstone of the Pacific Coast. That is a part of the city's secret. It is true, furthermore, that while every city has its problems, there is no city that is beyond the reach of the love of God in Jesus Christ. Where there is life there is hope, and there is much in San Francisco to give cause for hope.

If the Christian forces of the city can be welded into an instrument fit for the Master's use, and if in the surrounding area and all along the Pacific Coast a strong band of intercessors can be rallied, the spiritual fire that America has so long awaited may touch her western shore, and the visitation of the Holy Spirit may begin in San Francisco next May. A tiny band of Christians in Jerusalem faced odds that American Christians can scarcely appreciate; yet the revival came. "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" (Jer. 32: 27).

It is time to begin praying for San Francisco.

Robert W. Ross, since 1954 Professor in Bible and History at Simpson Bible College, San Francisco, contributed the new-comer's point of view to this article, and Sherwood E. Wirt, pastor of Hillside Presbyterian Church of Oakland since 1955, had served as a city reporter for the *Examiner* before seminary days. The article is a chapter from a new book titled *Spiritual Awakening*, edited by Wirt and published by Cowman Publications.

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Books in Review

GENTLE CONFLICT

Conflict With Rome, by G. C. Berkouwer, transl. by D. H. Freeman, Presbyterian & Reformed, Philadelphia, 1957. 319 pp., \$5.95.

As in *The Triumph of Grace in the Theology of Karl Barth* so in this volume Berkouwer has given us penetrating analyses on an even more important question with a clarity and ease of expression that leaves little to be desired.

The *Conflict With Rome* never mentions persecution in Colombia and Spain, avoids all reference to tax support for parochial schools and never raises its voice above a dignified discussion of theology. The subjects are, rather, the Roman claim to all inclusive authority, grace and assurance, Mariolatry, the incarnation, and the witness of the patristic writers.

In an exceptionally interesting and generously informative way Berkouwer shows how the Romish view of sin (which minimizes depravity and speaks well of man) and *infused* grace depends on a theory of the incarnation detached from the specific purpose of redemption and considered as a cosmic principle of union between God and man. This union is now most complete in the *prolongation* of the incarnation which is the body of Christ, to wit, the Roman church. Berkouwer succeeds most admirably in making even the hasty reader understand the coherence of the Roman system.

If it be the duty of a reviewer to search out something for adverse criticism, perhaps a few points may be found:

First, in rejecting Rome's claim that the Reformation, as a revolt against all ecclesiastical authority, was too individualistic, Berkouwer judges that the recent excessive individualism is a departure from Reformation principles. The reviewer agrees that there has been a widespread departure from Reformed principles, but he believes that it has been toward an excessive totalitarianism, and so far forth toward something akin to Romish authoritarianism.

Second, at the end of the chapter on grace, he asserts that "the primacy of the intellect was rejected" by the Reformation and that "the Reformed concept of fiducia was *not in the least* [italics mine] intellectually founded." This was not the view of Charles Hodge; and J.

Gresham Machen in his *What is Faith* vigorously defended the primacy of the intellect.

Third, although Berkouwer presents some fine exegetical material in defense of the assurance of salvation, it seems that he does not quite answer Rome's argument for "moral certainty" as opposed to "infallible assurance."

Fourth and last, the great majority of Berkouwer's references to contemporary Romish authors, with the exception of Cardinal Newman, are to Dutch writers. This produces the impression, unfounded and unfortunate, that the argument may suffer from a limited viewpoint.

But these criticisms are minor. The long chapter on grace is a masterpiece. One comes to understand why the Romanists were forced to assert the freedom of the will and why Luther and Calvin were compelled to deny it. With great skill in the handling of detail he makes perfectly evident that this is no effete, academic, trivial quarrel about words; but rather that it is at the center of one's deepest religious attitudes. On the one hand there is human merit, the insufficiency of God's power, and the possibility of losing one's salvation; on the other hand is total depravity, the perseverance of the saints, and the irresistible grace of the Sovereign God.

GORDON H. CLARK

VIEWS ON PREACHING

The Way to Biblical Preaching, by Donald G. Miller, Abingdon, 1957. 160 pp., \$2.50.

This book by the professor of New Testament at Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, is a sequel to the author's earlier volume, *Fire In Thy Mouth*.

Miller's fundamental thesis is this: by definition all Christian preaching is worthy of that name only when it is expository. By expository, however, he does not refer to the traditional homiletical form so-called. In fact, he repudiates that form altogether, arguing that exposition sustains no relationship whatsoever to form, but only to substance. From this perspective expository preaching—identical with biblical preaching—is the exposition of a scriptural theme which restricts itself to the immediate contextual framework on which it is based. The argument is buttressed with

numerous illustrations of the abuse of Scripture by methods of approach other than this one, an abuse which the author concludes is inevitable. But the illustrations are all alike extreme and, therefore, unconvincing.

Again, Miller maintains that the sermon which is an intellectual discussion of biblical truth is unjustifiable. Here he fails to perceive that doctrinal errors and misrepresentations often necessitate such sermons and that such clarification of biblical truth is itself a vital means of nurturing, sustaining, and enlarging faith. A New Testament scholar ought to know that the pulpit of the early Church was committed to both kerygma (proclamation) and didache (teaching).

This author also makes much of keeping biblical truths in balance, a good observation. His primary example is the doctrine of election. But at this point he falls into his own trap. Failing to see this doctrine in relation to the doctrines of man, sin, and divine sovereignty, he divorces it altogether from God's decree of salvation. In consequence, he comes up with an interpretation of election which is nothing short of nonsense and which indicates that his own Arminian background persists despite his present Reformed affiliation.

There are excellent insights in this book but they are enmeshed in a web of immature and erroneous notions. Whenever a man restricts Christian preaching to limitations which are not explicit or implicit in the biblical text, he only reveals his own prejudices. Miller's restrictions eliminate the possibility of comprehensive doctrinal, ethical, and biographical sermons which derive their substance from the Scriptures as a whole instead of an isolated passage. His narrowness, evidenced by the presumptuous title of the book, involves him in a pharisaical denunciation of some expert biblical preaching by masters like F. B. Meyer, whom he brands "biblicists." His argument further loses force when one encounters his neo-orthodox doctrine of the Bible. This book will be read with profit only by those who have powers of discernment and who realize that biblical preaching is best defined by the men who succeed at it week after week in their pulpits.

RICHARD ALLEN BODEY

LECTURES FOR CLERGY

Preaching the Christian Year, edited by Howard A. Johnson. Scribner's. \$3.75.

Here is a collection of essays on the theological implications of the major seasonal emphases in the annual Chris-



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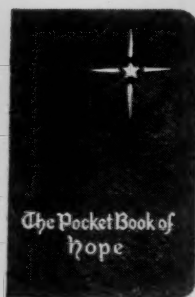
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tian calendar, contributed by leading Episcopalians at the behest of Dean Pike, and collected by Canon Johnson. Hughell Fosbrooke, Albert Mollegen, Theodore Wedel and others offer, in turn, their thoughts on the Advent, Christmastide, Lent, etc. The book opens with a brief "office" for preachers and closes with lists of recommended reading furnished by each of the authors.

These are not sermons, but lectures, first delivered in series before the Episcopal clergy of the greater New York area. They read, for the most part, like formal treatises written in the modern manner; suggestive, generally progressive rather than traditional in theology. Thus we are reminded that the Advent "centers on the coming of the King, rather than the coming of the Kingdom," but it also means that "He is always here with creative power and yet ever and again he comes." In other words, God in Christ is always at work in a sort of existential Advent—today even in a Nietzsche or a Bernard Shaw.

The book covers a wide field of interests. Frederick C. Grant, writing on Holy Week, discusses the chronology of the Gospels and the synoptic problem from the viewpoint of higher criticism. Then he says, "The idea of an infallible record is both impossible to maintain and entirely unnecessary from the orthodox viewpoint." Albert T. Mollegen, writing on Christmastide and the Epiphany, goes into liturgies: "The Prologue to the Fourth Gospel, originally chosen as the Gospel for the third and last Christmas Mass, seems the perfect choice for the Christmas Gospel. It was chosen in the West for a Christmas Gospel before the Advent Season arose so that Christmas began the Church Year."

To me, the most satisfying essay is that of J. V. Langmead Casserley on Eastertide: "The Resurrection is more profoundly interpreted not as the divine exaltation of Jesus to a status which was not previously his, but rather as a divine affirmation of that status which was always and intrinsically his." And "(The Resurrection) demands a metaphysical interpretation, but in good metaphysics the reality which demands and receives the metaphysical interpretation is always and necessarily a physical reality."

Amen!

G. AIKEN TAYLOR

DOCTRINE OF WRATH

The Wrath of the Lamb, by Anthony Tyrrell Hanson, S.P.C.K., London, 1957. \$4.00.

This volume provides a clear illustration of the way in which a scholar's

viewpoint toward higher criticism influences his biblical theology. The author's purpose is to trace the doctrine of the wrath of God throughout the Scriptures. He comes to the task obviously well-equipped with a thorough knowledge of the Greek language as well as a familiarity with all pertinent literature. However, he accepts all of the radical positions of the higher critics regarding the dates and authorship of the various parts of the Bible. His analysis of the biblical position is as follows: The Old Testament contains two contradictory currents—the Deuteronomistic school followed by the Chronicler sees the wrath of God as an impersonal process in history, while the earliest writers and the exilic and post-exilic prophets conceive of the wrath as God's personal reaction against sin. In the Inter-Testamental period these two currents are continued, the Apocalypticists being heirs of the prophetic position, while that of the Chronicler is followed in Maccabees and Philo. In the New Testament, Paul, in keeping with the one stream of thought, also conceives of the wrath of God as an impersonal process in history. To the writers of the Synoptics, God's wrath is likewise the arrangement which God has made whereby sin brings its own consequences. The Apocalypse carries Paul's concept of an impersonal wrath to its proper climax, and connects the wrath of God to the cross where God triumphs by accepting suffering rather than by inflicting it.

Dr. Hanson certainly makes a careful study of the biblical material; but, due to his presuppositions, his position is one-sided. According to his viewpoint, the wrath of God is not an emotion or even an attitude of God toward sin. He says that while we must not think of the wrath as a human emotion, surely it is the wrath of God, and the biblical doctrine is one which depicts God as strongly antagonistic toward all that is sinful. The serious implications of the author's position are revealed in his final chapter where he considers what modern scholars have written on the subject. Here it is that he expresses the basic opposition between his view and the doctrine of substitutionary atonement.

HARRY BUIS

SCHOLARLY TREATMENT

The Mormons, by Thomas F. O'Dea, University of Chicago Press, 1957. \$5.00.

This volume was written by a non-Mormon who is an associate professor of sociology at Fordham University in New York. A graduate of Harvard University

and holding a doctorate from there, he is able to pursue the subject in scholarly and irenic fashion.

His presentation is an able one, the facts of which were developed after exhaustive research. His control of the primary and secondary source materials is excellent, and the literary quality of the work is good. There are those who will certainly take exception to his conclusion that Joseph Smith authored the Book of Mormon. This reviewer still entertains the suspicion that Smith was not equipped to write this volume around which Mormonism centers. But it is interesting to observe that if Smith did write the book then the foundation stones of Mormonism crumble instantly. Smith himself claimed that he found this "revelation." If he did not, he was a liar and to suppose that a valid system of truth could be built upon such a foundation is hard to believe.

For those who are interested in Mormonism as a cult or as an expression of a religious urge, chapter six is invaluable. In this chapter the author discusses the theological foundations of the cult, and he does so brilliantly. The basic tenets of the cult are clearly delineated. The logic and precision with which this has been done is admirable. One need only run the gamut of Mormon beliefs, as they are outlined, and he will be able quickly to ascertain wherein the differences lie between his own convictions and those of the Mormon. For those who are evangelical in viewpoint, the unalterable and inescapable conclusion is that Mormonism is a cult. Mormonism denies creation, holds that spirit is matter and that God "himself once was as we are now, and is an exalted man and sits enthroned in yonder heavens." God is subject to the law of progression. The doctrine of the trinity has deteriorated to a conception of three separate gods. Man was in the beginning with God and thus is eternal. He is of the same race as God and will some day become God. Imputed guilt through Adam's sin is denied and salvation is obtained by faith plus good works.

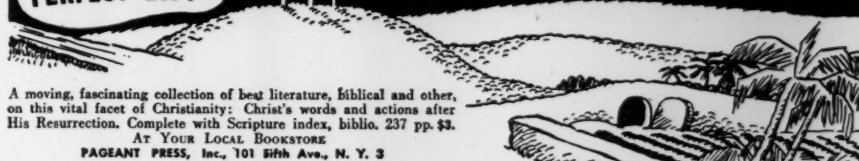
This volume is recommended reading for those who are interested also in aspects of Mormonism other than the religious.

HAROLD LINDSELL

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BOOK OF THE MONTH

(Cont'd from page 24) stance to the faithful defenders of the latter days yet to come in the conflict leading up to Armageddon. In the preliminary Church Age, God's people will be a blessing and refreshment to the nations of earth; but when the final world conflict is ushered in and their mighty David comes on his white horse (Rev. 19:11) at the head of his saints, they shall be a terror to all who rebel against the Lord. But the prophet makes it plain that Israel will never attain this supremacy until she has put away her trust in carnal weapons (horses and chariots, v. 10) and has been completely purged of idolatry. Not until then will the wrath of God be visited upon the disobedient world.

SUMMONS TO REPENT

1. God Reminds His People of His Loving Care (6:1-5). The mountains and hills that witnessed God's deliverance of Israel in bygone ages are summoned as witnesses against this thankless generation. They know of the tender love he showed their fathers in redeeming them from Egyptian bondage, frustrating the malice of Balak, King of Moab, and settling them victoriously in the Land of Promise after the plague had been halted at Shittim and the army had been circumcised at Gikal.

2. Acceptable Repentance is Marked by a Sincere and Living Faith (6:6-8). Here the repentant minority of Judah asks how they may best demonstrate their sorrow for ingratitude and sin. Will lavish material sacrifices and offerings please God? No, not by themselves, not even if one were to sacrifice his firstborn child upon the altar, as the brutal idolators do who try to appease their imaginary gods. Only a true and living faith that manifests itself in holy living can possibly please God. Note that this answer is given to those who have already entered into the covenant of grace, to those who have already made a profession of faith in the Lord. The issue at stake is a true faith versus a sham profession; in context v. 8 cannot be interpreted to describe a possible way of salvation by good works (as many have mistakenly supposed).

3. Self-Condensation as the Necessary Prerequisite to Forgiveness and Blessing (6:9-13). As the chastening rod of the Assyrian power approaches Judah, the nation is bidden to examine their conscience and see what dishonesty in business, what oppression of the poor, what deceitfulness of tongue has defiled

their soul. Inevitably they have been chastened because of their sins.

4. The Dread Consequences of Withholding Repentance (6:14-16). All your crops will be devoured by invaders and all your savings will be swept away, because you have chosen the idolatrous worship which Omri promoted in Samaria, and which his evil granddaughter, Queen Athaliah, sponsored in Judah as well (true to the example of her idolatrous mother, Jezebel of Tyre). The final result will be complete desolation and destruction.

GOD WILL FULFIL HIS PROMISES

1. Attitude of True Believers during this Apostate Age (7:1-10). (a) Towards their misguided countrymen they will feel sorrowful compassion. The old-fashioned standards of decency and honor have under the impact of the new "broad-mindedness" in religion given way to an inevitable breakdown in morals. The ruling classes sell justice for bribes and have become devoid of integrity; all the modern generation are untrustworthy and treacherous, and the children despise and dishonor their parents. (Observe how this state of affairs is to recur in the Last Days, according to Christ's prediction in Matthew 10:35.) (b) Towards God himself they will continue in confident trust, despite all hardship and persecution (7:7-10). The worldling will fall to permanent defeat, but the trusting believer is cast down only to rise the higher, using his tribulations as steppingstones to glory. All he endures he accepts with humility as due to such a sinner as he, and he waits confidently for the moment of vindication. God will demonstrate his covenant-righteousness by delivering him in the end, and bringing to well-deserved ruin those who have hated God's people and ridiculed their faith in him.

3. The Final Triumph of Christ: Christians Supreme over all the Earth (7:11-17). The spiritual walls of Jerusalem will be built by the sincere faith and obedience of believers; when these are erected, then the decree of chastisement and exile will be revoked. "In that day," i. e., in the day of Jehovah, converts shall come to him from the East and West (Assyria and Egypt), after Palestine has first passed through the desolation decreed because of Israel's sin. At v. 14 Micah addresses directly to God a prayer to shepherd his people with the rod of chastisement and protection, restoring them from exile. God replies that he will manifest his miracle-working power as in the days of the Exodus, and bring to humiliation and confusion all

the heathen, compelling them to fear and reverence his chosen people.

4. The Glory of the Lord Exhibited by these Dealings with His Covenant People (7:18-20). "Who is a God like unto Thee?" reflects the literal meaning of Micah's own name: "Who is like Jehovah?" The prophet marvels at his wondrous grace and compassionate forgiveness, utterly wiping out the score of sin, and fulfilling the promise made to Abraham and his seed so many centuries before.

Thus Micah covers in the relatively short summary of his prophecies that has survived to us most of the salient features of God's age-long plan for his covenant people. Cardinal facts concerning the first and second advents of our Lord and the end of the age are packed into these few eloquent pages, and they are worthy of earnest and frequent study. One should have recourse to scholarly commentaries.

Probably the most satisfactory commentary of all is that by C. F. Keil in the Keil and Delitzsch series: *Minor Prophets*, vol. 1 (Eerdmans). Another excellent treatment is that by Paul Kleinert in the Lange Commentary series: *Minor Prophets* (Zondervan). This last has the merit of dividing up the treatment of each passage into (a) textual critical matters, for students of Hebrew; (b) exegetical interpretation of a detailed nature; (c) doctrinal and ethical discussion; and (d) homiletical hints. Yet the discussion of the obscure points of interpretation is not apt to be so thorough and satisfying as in Keil's work. An old stand-by dating from the middle of the last century is E. B. Pusey's *The Minor Prophets*, vol. 2 (Baker). From a theologically liberal standpoint, the scholarly work of W. R. Harper in the International Critical Commentary series is worthy of mention, although characterized by the divisive criticism characteristic of his school of thought. A stimulating interpretation in popular style is that by H. A. Ironside: *Notes on the Minor Prophets* (Loizeaux). This, of course, is colored by a consistent dispensational standpoint, and does not always take the contemporary political scene into proper consideration. For a thorough and helpful treatment written in a simple, popular style, nothing can excel B. A. Copass and E. L. Carlson, *A Study of the Prophet Micah* (Baker, 1950). This goes thoroughly into matters of historical background and orientates the student into the milieu in which Micah found himself when God sent him forth to preach his matchless Word.

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REVIEW OF

Current Religious Thought

THE FAMOUS PSYCHOLOGIST C. G. Jung once undertook a detailed investigation of the nature and the power of evil. With emphasis, he thereupon placed himself in opposition to what he called the "teaching of the church," viz, that evil is merely a deficiency of goodness (*privatio boni*). He saw in this view a serious underestimation of evil because in this expression it is viewed only negatively and as a lack of something. He saw that in line with such underestimation, sooner or later Protestantism would eliminate the devil entirely, and Jung wished, as he said, to posit over against this underestimation of evil something more substantial. For in the empirical life evil is experienced in its thorough juxtaposition to good, just as in the New Testament there arises the idea of the anti-Christ as opposed to the Christ. Every idea that minimizes evil must be combatted. Evil is not just a deprivation, but it is a destructive power. Jung notes what has happened in the concentration camps of the dictator states, and certainly here no one can point to such things as "lack of perfection." No, evil stands as a shattering, annihilating power over against the good.

It is clear to see that these views of Jung deserve some attention, but that they also fall short in some measure. He does not bring sufficiently into reckoning that the characterization of evil as a deficiency of the good was already applied by St. Augustine and many others especially as an antidote to Manichaeism, that considered sin as a substantial entity in eternal antithesis to the good. And when later in Protestantism the expression "falling short" begins to play a considerable role, it is always with the understanding that it concerns an *active* deprivation (*privatio actuosa*) to remain in agreement with the New Testament in which sin is always characterized as rebellion and transgression, as enmity against God.

¶ However, in dealing with Jung one cannot merely speak of misapprehension. Often men, resting in a comfortable optimism, have failed to do justice to the reality of evil in the world; and often through the means of this idea of falling short, men have characterized evil as a "missing of the mark," a "shortage," a

"not-yet," that eventually can be filled in or achieved. How many times has evil been designated as a temporary failure or shortage, as a phase in our development. In this way one can "explain" sin on the basis of all kinds of circumstances, or out of peculiarities or limitations of the human spirit, without admitting or confessing that it is a matter in which ruin and terror are involved.

Suddenly mankind recognizes that this description of evil does not ring true to reality. It is not a coincidence that Jung points to the concentration camps. That is the most frequently mentioned example in modern times, the destructive power of one man over the lives of others. One feels at once that the explanations of "falling short" and "not-yet" do not do justice. But often we get the impression that men in treating of evil first of all and chiefly call attention to the human consequences, and that the idea of sin against God plays a very small role. We hear of demonism and the extremes of egocentricism, and we come under the spell of the power of "the evil," as, for instance, Albert Camus treats of it in his book, *The Fall*, where such egocentricism plays a thorough-going role. We hear the lamentations over the demoniacal manifestations in human life that make one individual a menace to another.

¶ We do not, however, in this manner touch on the depths of the power of sin that is described in the Bible as the *estrangement* of a life from God, enmity against him, and thus we come again along all these paths to an underestimation of evil. When the estrangement from God is not recognized and confessed, we come back always to the idea of shortcoming, which can indeed strike with surprise, with fear and dismay, but in which we do not seek the path of forgiveness. It is only by way of confession of sin, through the cry from out of the depths, that a perspective is again opened for reunion. It is certainly no coincidence that the Bible, which points to the deepest sources of evil as the forsaking of God's ways, is filled to the brim with the calling of man to his obligations to his fellowman. It is exactly where sin is not looked upon as a dramatic and mysterious appearance, as the destruction of human relationships, that

man comes again to see and to face his need and his suffering, his poverty and his misery.

The relationships between love for God and love toward man are unbreakable. "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have a need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" (1 John 3:17).

¶ The recognition of evil has nothing to do with various forms of pessimism that air lamentations over the state of mankind and that most of all speak only of the guilt of *others*. These complaints are unfruitful and do not bring any blessings for human life. They may arise out of a proud heart. How many times one can see only the splinter in the eye of another, but not the beam in his own. How sharply at times is judgment passed on a person, or mankind, without any confession of guilt on the part of oneself. Underestimation of evil evidences itself most of all in the form of underestimating evil in our own lives. The genuine sense of guilt begins not with another, but with ourselves, and in this confession of sin the mercy of God is experienced as a great light shining in deep darkness.

In this world there are plenty of lamentations and also of accusations. But the contriteness that forms the entrance to the Kingdom of God is something completely different. It transcends the juxtaposition of pessimism and optimism, and more than ever before, man in our times has need of this type of sorrow. This is directly opposite to what the Gospels characterize as the "wholeness" of those who do not feel the need of a physician, and of those "righteous" who do not feel the need of conversion. This "health," this "wholeness," is the pressing danger of our times. There are so few really "sick ones" who are stretching forth their hands to receive the healing medicine. The Bible speaks of a God who chastises, but men today have not felt any pain. This lack of feeling, this insensitiveness, closes the heart for forgiveness, and this makes life, amidst great need, cold, and in most cases hard and merciless.

¶ However, he who has learned to see the guilt of sin in its depths comes also through the confession of guilt to the joy of forgiveness. This forgiveness becomes in the life of the individual a power that cannot stay hidden. There is a deep-flowing correspondence between guilt and forgiveness. He who has been forgiven much, loveth much (Luke 7:47).

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